

ILLUSTRATED TIMES

REGISTERED AT THE GENERAL POST OFFICE FOR TRANSMISSION ABROAD.

NEW SERIES.

THE RIGHT OF TRANSLATION AND REPRODUCING ILLUSTRATIONS IS RESERVED.

No. 403.—VOL. 1.

LONDON, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1862.

PRICE [WITH CHRISTMAS
SUPPLEMENT] 4*½*D.—STAMPED 5*½*D.

GREECE.

IT seems quite possible that the affairs of Greece may yet lead us into considerable trouble. In Greece lies the heart of the Eastern question. Russia, by suggesting that this is the proper moment for the great Powers to "establish a proper balance of influence in the East," has revived this question, and there is only too much reason for supposing that Russia and France are prepared with a joint answer to it. The ostentatious civilities addressed by the Emperor Napoleon to the new Russian Ambassador are not merely expressions of good will. If gratitude has really prompted them, it is at least that kind of gratitude which Larocheoucault declared, in the most celebrated of all his maxims, to be "a lively appreciation of favours to come." All that Russia has done to oblige France during the half dozen years over which their friendship has extended has been to keep the ground for her, and to assume a half offensive attitude towards her enemy while the Italian War was going on; and some such service as this France may require from Russia again. It was ascertained before the Crimean War broke out that Russia and England could not agree about the Eastern question, and before it was concluded it appeared that England and France could not maintain an understanding as to any general scheme of European policy to be pursued in common. France and Russia, however, are quite of one accord in desiring the

ruin of Austria; and Greece, as well as Turkey, has now shown that she mistrusts the action of both those ambitious Powers in the East, and that she has confidence only in England, whose views in that quarter are notoriously confined to keeping things very much as they are.

However much Russia and France might wish to interfere in the affairs of Greece, they, of course, could not do so without some sort of pretext. This would at once be afforded to them if the country were to fall into a state of anarchy, of which there seems even now to be some danger. Unanimity is a very fine thing in its way; but, unfortunately, it can scarcely ever be attained, except by the majority oppressing the minority; and when we read that one newspaper editor has been expelled from Athens for supporting France, and another for supporting Russia, we feel, however complimentary those illegal and tyrannical acts may be, indirectly, to England, that they are illegal and tyrannical nevertheless, and under a proper system of Government could not be tolerated.

Nor can Greek unanimity, under present circumstances, be of long duration. When Prince Alfred has been twice chosen, and has twice refused to profit by his election, the Greeks will have either to do without a King or to accept whatever King the three Powers who signed the Treaty of 1830 may agree to impose upon them—supposing always that the three Powers can agree on such a point, which is by no means

certain. It is quite possible that the Greeks, finding their desire to be ruled by an English Prince is not to be gratified, may refuse to be comforted, and decline, for a time at least, to elect any other Sovereign; this interval would be one of simple anarchy, though it might not, in the beginning, manifest itself in any violent form. The position of affairs would not be much improved if the three Powers should agree as to the eligibility of any one candidate for the throne, and the proposed Monarch should not be favourably regarded by the Greeks themselves. This also is possible enough; for Greece, in her present mood and with her present aspirations, can have no inclination to be treated as an infant State, under the special protection of England, France, and Russia. When the three Powers gave Greece freedom and a King, the present was one that could not but be accepted with joy. The imposed King was lost sight of in the boon of national independence, as a powder given to a child passes unobserved in the midst of a quantity of jelly. But if an attempt is made to force some small German Prince down the throats of the Greeks, now that there will be nothing to take the taste away, the medicine may prove too bitter for them, and we shall not be surprised if they refuse to swallow it. We are, of course, aware that the three Powers have no right to appoint any one to the throne of Greece; all they are entitled to do in the matter is to



INSTALLATION OF DR. LONGLEY, THE NEW ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY, IN THE ARCHIEPISCOPAL THRONE AT CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL.—SEE PAGE 547.

exclude all members of the reigning families of England, France, and Russia from becoming candidates. Nevertheless, there are so many possible candidates to whose election one or other of the three Powers would be sure to object, that, practically, no one will be able to wear the Greek crown without first obtaining the consent of England, France, and Russia. As Figaro, provided he spoke neither of political, legal, nor opera matters, nor of anything else that interested the public, was allowed to publish whatever he pleased, under the inspection of three or four censors, so Greece, provided she turns her attention from a certain number of candidates who are declared ineligible by treaty, may choose any Prince, noble, or commoner she may take a fancy to—under the approbation of her trio of guardians.

England, for instance, would object to the Duke of Leuchtenberg as King of Greece, if the Greeks, finding that King and will not have them at any price, should resolve, from spite, to throw themselves into the arms of Russia. Yet it is very doubtful whether, strictly speaking, the Duke of Leuchtenberg is excluded by the terms of the treaty; for, though he is now regarded as a member of the Romanoff family, and is entitled to wear the Romanoff arms, he is only related to the Emperor by marriage.

What, again, would England do if, after she has told the Greeks that she will not give them an English Prince and that they shall not take a Russian one, Russia suddenly suggests that a French Prince, not a member of the reigning family in France, would be an objectionable, and proposes Murat, who by this time has probably lost all hope of gaining the crown of the Two Sicilies? England would doubtless object, for Murat, as a leading member of the Napoleonic band, would be as much a French agent at Athens as Prince Napoleon himself.

No king, however, seems more probable at present than that France and Russia will combine to recommend for the throne of Greece a ruler on whose assistance they will be able to reckon for carrying out their common Oriental policy. The Greeks have already of their own accord taken a step which would facilitate the execution of such a scheme, by having recourse to what the French call a *plebiscite* for making known the wishes of the country in respect to Prince Alfred's selection. It was through a *plebiscite*, and owing to the support of a multitude of peasants and workmen, that despotism was established in France. It was a *plebiscite* that gave Nice to the Emperor Napoleon—Nice, the birthplace of Garibaldi—and where at this moment no Italian gentleman will receive a French officer into his house. In fact, it has been shown in practice that a *plebiscite*, by a skilful use of administrative machinery, may be made to give whatever result the operator desires. We do not say that France and Russia will now be able, with some show of legality, to place a Prince of their own choosing on the Greek throne; but it will certainly be far easier for them to do so through a *plebiscite* than by any other conceivable means, and Greece has now established a precedent by which they may continue to profit.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

The Emperor has received the new Russian Ambassador, the Baron de la Caze, and in the few words which passed between them on the occasion the Emperor congratulated the diplomatist upon the friendly relations which had for six years subsisted between the Russian and French Governments, and which had the more chance of continuing, as they were due to the mutual sympathies and the real interests of the two empires.

The Emperor on the 14th inst. received the Turkish Ambassador in a private audience, and received from him the insignia, set in brilliant, of the Order of the Osmanli, together with an autograph letter from the Sultan.

The *Mouleur* of the 14th inst., in announcing the coronation of the King of Madagascar, says:—

A treaty of commerce on the largest basis has been concluded between France and Madagascar. All other nations have obtained equally favourable terms. The treaty makes no mention of territorial concessions, a subject which might have given rise to grave difficulties.

The announcement that England is prepared to give up the Ionian Islands has created the utmost astonishment in Paris, attended with some amount of incredulity. Of course the sacrifice is well received, and for once we have the terms "generous," "disinterested," &c., applied to an act of British policy.

SPAIN.

A debate has taken place in the Spanish Senate, on the Mexican expedition and the conduct of General Prim, which possesses much interest. General Prim, in the course of his defence of his conduct in Mexico, amongst other curious revelations read a letter from General Almonte, in which that General declared that he was authorised by the Emperor Napoleon and the Archduke Maximilian himself to put forward the latter as candidate for the Mexican throne, and that the French troops would guarantee the throne to him. On concluding, General Prim expressed his opinion that the French expedition would fail in its aim. The Foreign Minister, Calderon Collantes, delivered a speech which bore directly against the course taken by the Spanish commander, and even sought to impute to the latter the having rendered less friendly the relations between France and Spain. He argued that General Prim was wrong in accusing the French Plenipotentiary of having violated the treaty of Loudon, and did not seem to have given any weight to the very important fact that the English Plenipotentiary followed just the same course, if he did not express openly the same opinions, as the Spanish General. Another Senator contended that Spain is not yet by any means absolved from the duty of compelling Mexico by force to discharge her obligations.

ITALY.

The new Italian Ministry has already met the Chambers and been very favourably received. Signor Farini, President of the Council, delivered the following speech in the Chambers on announcing the formation of the Cabinet:—

Gentlemen.—As we have been intrusted by the King with that important charge, the administration of the State, it is our first duty to declare that we seek in the support of the Parliament the authority that is indispensable for establishing a good organisation at home, and for representing the honour and the interests of Italy abroad. The nation feels that the time has come for assuring the conquests and the advantages of unity, and for giving an effective impulse to our internal organisation. We propose to respond to this feeling by scrupulously studying the wants and interests of the people, by carrying out the administrative reforms suggested by experience upon the basis of a large decentralisation; and, finally, by giving an intelligent direction to the development of Constitutional liberty in every part of the internal organisation. But the first and essential condition of this liberty is public order. If that were not firmly maintained Italy would feel less confidence in its own triumph, and find as an obstacle in its path the insurmountable opposition of the Governments and people of Europe. The

Italians have shown that, firm and assured in the principles of unity and of national right, they do not easily forget their profound devotion to the Monarchy and to the law. United to this sentiment is that of national gratitude towards the army, the symbol and pledge of our destinies, that army which after having heroically fought the battles of independence gave the noblest example of self-sacrifice and of discipline in re-establishing, by a painful effort, the authority of violated laws. Need I say, gentlemen, that in assuming power we bring with us the faith that animates every Italian heart, the principles of public right which have constituted the nation, and the desire that the Parliament has solemnly expressed? Firm is our conviction that Italian unity will be accomplished, we believe we are responding to a general sentiment of dignity in refraining from promises not to be followed by prompt results, and we obtain from this same belief the right to declare to Italy that she must await the accomplishment of the course of events without illusion and without mistrust. The work of our resurrection has commenced and advanced, thanks to the spontaneous adhesion of opinion and to the co-operation of every will, and it has presented itself before Europe as a guarantee of tranquillity and of progress given to civilised nations. We shall continue to follow that path, paying good heed to the general conditions of Europe, and jealously maintaining with the alliance of Italy her complete independence. Providence has evidently confided to our generation a grand mission. It has accorded us propitious opportunities, the virtues necessary to avail ourselves of them; and, above all, it has given us that valiant and loyal King in whose wisdom and Italian concord, unites the indissoluble destinies of Italy and the dynasty.

This programme of the policy of the new Government has been very favourably received, both in the Chambers and by the public generally. The Chamber of Deputies have resolved that the question of brigandage shall be discussed in a secret committee. M. Musolino's motion for an interpellation on the Roman question has been negatived by a large majority.

From a statement of Signor Sella, just published, on the financial condition of the Italian Government, it appears that, while in 1862 the deficit was 418,217,700 lire, the ordinary deficit in 1863 will be 223,265,27 lire, and the extraordinary 127,894,418 lire. According to Signor Sella's statement the ordinary deficit for 1862 will be covered without having recourse to public credit; but in order to cover the extraordinary deficit he recommends that the Government be authorised to issue 300,000,000 lire of Treasury Bonds. These means, however, being insufficient, the Government must have recourse to a public loan, although Signor Sella thinks that the funds which are now in the public Treasury will allow of the postponement of this measure for a considerable period.

The Parliament has voted the three months' provisional taxation required by the Ministry by a large majority. This is of course by no means a vote of adhesion or confidence. It has no political significance, and is accorded merely to give the present Cabinet an opportunity of starting with its work.

AUSTRIA.

The Austrian Upper Chamber voted on Monday the Budget for 1863, and the Chamber of Deputies passed the Bank Act. On Tuesday the Emperor gave a soiree to all the members of both Houses of the Reichsrath, and the Session was to be closed by the Emperor in person on Thursday.

The Austrian Government has just passed a Personal Liberty Act, one of the first really free laws passed on the Continent. No one can be arrested without a writ, which must contain the grounds of arrest. The police can arrest of their own authority, but they must either release the accused or produce him before a magistrate within forty-eight hours, under penalty of three months' imprisonment. Persons charged with offences punishable with less than five years' imprisonment with hard labour may be admitted to bail.

RUSSIA.

The *Journal de St. Petersbourg*, Dec. 12, says, in reference to the Greek question:—"We can state on the best authority that the Great Powers have agreed to maintain the protocol of 1839, but have not yet come to an understanding as to any candidate for the throne of Greece. The Russian Cabinet has not proposed any candidate."

DENMARK.

A despatch from Copenhagen announces that the King of Denmark is rather seriously ill. This Sovereign is only fifty-four years of age, and his death would be a serious loss for the country, which he governs in a liberal spirit. He has no children, and his heir presumptive is the future father-in-law of the Prince of Wales—Prince Christian, of the house of Schleswig-Holstein-Glucksburg. The rights of that Prince were established by the law of succession of the 31st of July, 1853, and guaranteed by a Protocol signed at London by the principal Powers.

GREECE.

A telegram from Athens of the 13th inst. says:—"The Hon. Mr. Elliott has arrived here on a special mission. It is asserted that England recommends King Ferdinand of Portugal as King of Greece, and that she will cede the Ionian Islands to Greece."

It is generally believed that in the event of Prince Alfred declining the Greek throne the people will again re-elect him, in the hope that such a decided expression of their wishes will not be without effect.

Another telegram from Athens of the 16th says:—"The Representatives of the three Powers have signed a note excluding the members of their respective Royal families. The plebiscite is over. Of 10,127 votes given here 9880 were for Prince Alfred."

The following is a summary of intelligence given in the Athens journals of Dec. 4:—"The news that the three Powers are in accord to respect and maintain the protocols of 1839 and 1852, has not (says the *Greece*) abated the enthusiasm of the majority or caused the slightest hesitation in the public mind as to the candidature of Prince Alfred. The journal adds that hopes are entertained of being able to persuade England to yield. The fundamental article of the decree by which the Provisional Government has proclaimed universal suffrage is as follows:—"A register is publicly placed in each Mairie, in which every Greek citizen who has completed his twentieth year is to inscribe the name of the King to whom he gives his vote." The age is therefore reduced from twenty-five to twenty, and every one votes openly. A fresh manifestation took place on the 24th ult. at the Piraeus in favour of the English candidate. Two municipal decisions have been officially addressed to the Government with a view to demand from it Prince Alfred as King. Those two municipalities are those of Nauplia and Lania. The Provisional Government has ratified all the discussions made by the insurgents of mayors and deputy-mayors from the first movement of Venizelos to the 31st of October."

MEXICO.

Advices received from Vera Cruz, via New York, state that the French had occupied Jalapa. A fight had occurred at National Bridge. The Mexicans were routed, and the French captured their commanding officer. 8000 French troops were to occupy Sonora. General Forey had issued another proclamation declaring that he had not come to fight the Mexican people, but only the Mexican Government, whose incapacity had placed Mexico in a deplorable position.

The steam-ship *Floride* has arrived at St. Nazaire with General Lorencez on board, and brings news from Vera Cruz to the 16th ult. During the previous fortnight six vessels had arrived there, bringing altogether 4000 men. The corps of General Berger had victoriously entered Jalapa, which was defended by 2500 Mexicans. A column of 2000 men had taken possession of Medlin, which is an important position for obtaining provisions. Twelve companies of the 81st Regiment of the Line had embarked for Tampico, in order to occupy that place. The 3rd Regiment of Zouaves were scouring the neighbourhood of Vera Cruz for oxen, destined to complete the means of transport.

CHINA AND JAPAN.

By intelligence from China, ranging from the 25th of October to the 6th of November, we learn that the Imperialists have lately been very successful in their movements against the Taipings. They have captured the rebel stronghold near Ningpo, and the Mohammedans in Shensi have been utterly routed and reduced to submission. By the latest advices it was thought that the Taipings would attempt to recover their lost ground, but the Imperialists were on the alert to receive them. A large amount of cotton is about to be sent to this country. The Duke of Lancaster was wrecked off Formosa; captain and crew saved.

The news from Japan is unsatisfactory. The Tycoon confesses his inability to avenge the recent murder of an Englishman, and has

applied to the British Minister for assistance. It is said that a revolution is going on in Jeddah. The cholera is also virulent in that capital.

THE CIVIL WAR IN AMERICA.

GENERAL NEWS.

The great feature of the American news is the Message of President Lincoln, an abstract of which will be found below.

A subscription had been opened in New York for the relief of the distress in Lancashire, and up to the date of our advices large sums had been subscribed. The British residents were also raising a subscription. The Chamber of Commerce of New York city had held a meeting to take measures for the relief of the distress in Lancashire. Some members thought that perhaps by inaugurating this movement some national vanity and enmity to England might be attributed to the Chamber. The majority of the speakers deprecated conducting the movement in a way to obtain favour with one class in England, but urged that it should be based exclusively on the grounds of Christian charity. England was a great customer of America for grain, and it was a plain case that it was America's duty to feed a brother nation in distress. Messrs. Griswold and Co. offered a vessel of 1800 tons burden to convey food to England, not only as a relief for the suffering poor, but as a token of respect for the Queen and her friendship for America. A committee was appointed to collect subscriptions in money and grain from all parts of the country; 26,000 dols. in cash was subscribed on the spot. A proposal to send the French operatives was voted down.

An engagement has occurred at Hartsville, Tennessee, between the Federal advance force from Nashville and the Confederates under General Morgan. Colonel Moore's Federal brigade was repulsed several times, and finally captured. General Morgan afterwards attacked the Federals at Gallatin, but was repulsed with heavy loss.

The naval expedition under General Banks had sailed; its destination was still a secret.

The Federal army of the South-west had commenced a general advance from Memphis and different parts of the Mississippi. Preparations were being made at New Orleans for an advance by land and water up the Mississippi.

A Union meeting had been held at New Orleans. The correspondents of the New York journals describe the proceedings as enthusiastic.

General Butler was appointing overseers for the plantations which he has confiscated.

The Federal Commissioner Johnson, who was sent to New Orleans to investigate the condition of affairs, had reported that persons in General Butler's command are growing rich upon the necessities of the helpless people of New Orleans by extortions offensive to decency, and that the inhabitants of the city have been as much sinned against as sinning since General Butler's rule. Mr. Johnson denies that any money returned to the French Consul was sent to Havannah for the Confederates.

The Southern journals state that a fleet of twenty Federal vessels sailed from Hilton on the 5th inst. for Georgia and Wilmington. Several Federal vessels had passed Charleston Harbour. It was supposed they were going to assist in attacking Mobile. The same journals assert that 30,000 Federals are at Suffolk, preparing to move against Petersburg, while a Federal force at Newbern, North Carolina, will act simultaneously against Weldon.

A Federal expedition which had gone up the Mississippi discovered that the crop of cotton remaining in the States of Mississippi, Louisiana, and Arkansas has been overestimated. The destruction of cotton having been very considerable, only a few thousand bales remain in the counties bordering the river. The new crop will be very small.

Nearly all the Democratic candidates had been elected at New York city election.

The Legislature of Alabama had placed 1,000,000 dls. at the disposal of the Governor, and had authorised him to impress one-tenth of the negroes in Alabama to erect defences. The negroes were at once to commence to obstruct the channels leading into Mobile Bay and in the rivers above the city.

A new incident is reported in the horrible case of General or Colonel McNeill, the Union guerrilla leader in Missouri, who deliberately shot ten men because one man was not delivered up to him. Allsman, the guide, for whose supposed death this bloody vengeance was taken, has reappeared in good health at his own home. If McNeill is allowed to escape the penalty of his misdeeds, the Federal authorities in Missouri will, like himself, commit both a crime and a blunder.

OPERATIONS IN VIRGINIA.

General Burnside had visited Washington, and, after an interview with the President, had returned to the army.

Nothing important had occurred at Fredericksburg. The Federal Commander had informed the authorities of Fredericksburg that, as long as no hostile demonstration was made from Fredericksburg, he should not shell the town. General "Stonewall" Jackson was reported to have joined General Lee at Fredericksburg. The Confederates were working on the defences of Fredericksburg, and the Federals were erecting fortifications commanding the Confederate positions. The Confederates had captured a train of Federal wagons with ordnance stores in Virginia. The Confederate cavalry had crossed the Rappahannock and captured two entire troops of Federal cavalry. A successful cavalry reconnaissance had been made from General Siegel's army, in which forty Confederate cavalry were captured. Five Federal gun-boats were reported to have proceeded up the Rappahannock and anchored opposite King George's Courthouse.

The Southern journals urge retaliation for the outrage and plundering committed by General Burnside's army in Virginia.

PRESIDENT LINCOLN'S MESSAGE.

The Federal Congress reassembled at Washington on the 1st instant. The Message delivered by President Lincoln is moderate in tone towards the South, but firm for the maintenance of the Union. On foreign relations he says:—

If the condition of foreign relations is less gratifying than at former periods, it is certainly more satisfactory than a nation so unhappy distract might have apprehended. In June last there were some grounds to expect that the maritime Powers, which at the commencement of American difficulties so unwisely and so unnecessarily recognised the insurgents as belligerents, would soon recede from that position, which has proved only less injurious to themselves than to America. But temporary reverses which afterwards befel the Federal arms, and which were exaggerated by disloyal citizens abroad, have hitherto delayed that act of simple justice. Civil war has disturbed the social conditions and deeply affected the prosperity of the nations with which America has carried on an increasing commerce during half a century. It has at the same time excited political ambitions and apprehensions which have produced profound agitation throughout the civilised world. In this unusual agitation America has forborne from taking part in any controversy between foreign States, and between parties or factions in such States. America has attempted no propagandism and acknowledged no revolution, but has left to every nation the exclusive conduct and management of its own affairs. Foreign nations have, of course, contemplated the American struggle with reference to its own merits than to its supposed and often exaggerated effects and the consequences resulting to those nations themselves. Nevertheless, complaint on the part of the Federal Government, even if it were just, would certainly be unwise.

President Lincoln acknowledges with special pleasure that the execution of the Slave Trade Treaty by the British Government has been marked with a jealous respect for the authority of the United States and the rights of their moral and loyal citizens.

The blockade of 3000 miles of sea-coast could not, he says, be established and vigorously enforced in a season of great commercial activity like the present without committing occasional mistakes and inflicting unintentional injuries upon foreign nations and their subjects. Civil war in a country where foreigners reside and carry on trade under treaty stipulations, is necessarily fruitful of complaints of violations of neutral rights. All such collisions tend to excite misapprehension, and possibly to produce mutual recriminations between nations which have a common interest in preserving peace and friendship. In clear cases of these kinds I have, so far as possible, heard and redressed the complaints presented by friendly Powers. There are, however, a large and augmenting number of doubtful cases upon which the Federal Government is unable to agree with the Governments whose protection is demanded by the claimants. There are, moreover, many cases in which the United States or their citizens suffer wrongs from the naval or military authorities of foreign nations which the Governments of these

ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

States are not at once prepared to redress. I have proposed to some foreign States thus interested mutual conventions to examine and adjust such conflicts. This proposition has been made specially to England, France, Spain, and Prussia. In each case it has been kindly received, but not yet formally adopted.

President Lincoln recommends an appropriation for the owners of the Norwegian banque Admiral Rioba. He says that commercial and consular treaties have been negotiated with Turkey, Liberia, and B. Y. and continues:—

Our relations with European States remain undisturbed. Our relations with the independent States of the American continent remain unchanged, with more friendly sentiments than have hitherto existed are believed to be entertained by these neighbours, whose safety and progress are so intimately connected with that of America. This statement specially applies to Mexico, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Honduras, Peru, and Chili. I have favoured the project of an Atlantic cable, and a similar project to extend the telegraph from San Francisco to connect by Pacific telegraph with the wire which is being extended across the Russian empire.

The Message recommends extraordinary measures to promote the development of the mineral regions of the United States' territories, and continues:—

Public expenditures for the suppression of the rebellion have been met with promptness, and public credit is fully maintained. The suspension of specie payments by the banks made a large issue of United States' notes unavoidable. The judicious legislation of Congress, making these notes a legal tender, has made them the universal currency, and satisfied partially, for the time, the long-felt want of a uniform circulating medium. A return to specie payments, however, at the earliest period compatible with due regard to all interests, should ever be kept in view. The best means to reduce the fluctuations in the value of the currency and ensure its prompt convertibility is to organize banking associations under a general Act of Congress. To such associations Government might furnish circulating notes on the strength of United States bonds deposited in the Treasury. These notes, being uniform in appearance and security, and convertible always into coin, would protect labour against the evils of a vicious currency, and facilitate commerce by cheap and safe exchanges. Public credit would be improved, and the negotiation of new loans greatly facilitated by a steady market demand for Government Bonds, which the adoption of the proposed system would create. It would reconcile all existing interests by the opportunity it gives to existing institutions to reorganize under the Act, substituting a general uniform national currency for the various circulations now issued.

The receipts from all sources for the fiscal year ending June, 1862, were \$84,000,000 dols., being 49,000,000 dols. from customs, 1,800,000 dols. from direct taxes, and from loans \$30,000,000 dols. The remainder was the balance from last year. The aggregate disbursements during the same period were \$70,000,000 dols. The \$6,000,000 dols. expended for the reimbursement and redemption of the public debt, being included in the loans made, may be properly deducted both from receipts and expenditure.

In accordance with the purpose expressed in the second paragraph of the emancipation proclamation of September last, President Lincoln calls the attention of Congress to what may be called "compensated emancipation." He then argues upon the impracticability of disunion, and says:—

There is no line, straight or crooked, suitable for a national boundary upon which to divide.

Our strife pertains to ourselves, to the passing generations of men, and it cannot without conviction be hushed for ever with the passing of one generation.

In this view the President recommends the adoption of the following resolutions and articles amendatory to the Federal Constitution:—

Resolved by the Federal Congress, two-thirds of both Houses concurring that the following articles be proposed to the Legislatures or Conventions of the several States as amendments to the Federal Constitution, all or any of which articles, when ratified by three-fourths of these Legislatures or Conventions, to be valid as parts or parts of the Constitution.

1. Every State wherein slavery now exists which shall abolish slavery at any time before January of the year 1900 shall receive the following compensation from the United States:—

"Presidents of the United States shall deliver to every such State United States' Bonds, bearing a certain interest, for each slave known to have been therein by the eighth United States' Census; these bonds to be delivered to such State by installments or in one parcel at completion of abolition, according as abolition shall have been gradual or at one time. Any State introducing or tolerating slavery after having received these bonds shall retain the bonds and interest to the United States."

2. All slaves who have acquired freedom by the chances of war at any time before the end of the rebellion shall be for ever free. Loyal owners will, however, receive compensation. Congress may appropriate money and provide for colonising free negroes, with their consent, at places outside the United States.

President Lincoln then enters into a long and earnest argument to prove that the adoption of these amendments to the Constitution are politic on the grounds of justice, economy, and interest, and as a means which cannot fail to restore the Union. He, however, says that—

The plan is recommended, not but that a restoration of the national authority would be accepted without its adoption. Nor would the war nor the emancipation proclamation be stayed because of the recommendation of this plan; but its timely adoption would no doubt bring restoration, and thereby stay these proceedings. This plan would secure peace more speedily, and cost less, than if force alone is relied upon. Many objections may present themselves, but the question is, can anything better be imagined or done?

The Message concludes by saying that—

Other means may succeed—this could not fail. The way is plain, peaceful, glorious, and just—a way, which, if followed, the world will for ever applaud, and God must for ever bless.

REPORTS FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

The report of the Federal Secretary of War has been published. It states that the Federal army at present numbers 800,000 fully armed and equipped men. When the quotas are filled the army will number 1,000,000 men.

General Halleck's report contains a letter from General McClellan, in which he strenuously opposes the removal of the army from the Peninsula to Acqua Creek, declaring that it would be fatal to the Union cause.

The report of the Secretary of the Navy says that the Federal naval force consists of 323 steamers and 104 sailing-vessels, carrying in all 3268 guns. The Secretary of the Navy refers to the deprivations of the steamer Alabama, and says:—

The Alabama went forth from England to destroy American shipping, and how far and to what results this abuse may be carried with impunity to the Government which tolerates it is a matter of grave consideration. This lawless rover, though built in and sailing from England, has no acknowledged flag or recognized nationality. Before the Alabama left England the British authorities were informed by the recognised official agents of the Federal Government of her character and purposes. The British Government thus invoked came too late to prevent her sailing. To what extent, under these circumstances, the British Government is bound in honour and justice to make indemnification for the destruction of private property is a question which may present itself for disposal. It is alluded to now from a sense of duty towards American commercial interests, and from the fact that recent intelligence indicates that other vessels of similar character are fitting out in England.

The report of the Secretary of the Treasury states that the estimate of the public debt in July, 1863, must be advanced to 1,120,000,000 dols. If the war continues with undiminished disbursements, the estimated sum in July, 1864, will be 1,744,000,000 dols. The average rate of interest on the whole loan is 3-5 per cent. The estimated receipts from the customs for the current year are 68,000,000 dols., and from internal revenue 85,000,000 dols. There is a balance of 276,700,000 dols. to be provided for. To make up the deficiency the Secretary recommends the imposition of a moderate tax on the corporate circulation, and that the banks should issue a circulation furnished by Government, and thus establish one sound, uniform circulation of equal value throughout the country. From this source he expects to obtain 50,000,000 dols. He further proposes to raise 200,000,000 dols. by loans, and 20,000,000 dols. by enlarging the list for temporary deposits. The Secretary recommends no more paper-money schemes, but a series of measures looking to the gradual return to gold and silver. The resources of the country will always enable her to pay the interest on her debt or to reduce the principal to whatever point the public interest may indicate. He recommends that whatever may be needed in excess of the sum to be supplied by revenue be obtained by loans without increasing the issue of United States' notes beyond the amount fixed by law. Mr. Chase also recommends that the American gold half-eagle be made of equal weight and fineness with the English sovereign.

CONGRESS.

A resolution had been offered in Congress to hold a convention of delegates from all the States at Louisville in April next to consider the state of the country and the proper means to be pursued for restoring the Union.

Several resolutions proposed by the Opposition members to inquire into unconstitutional arrests had been voted down.

Congress had adopted a resolution directing the Committee on Naval Affairs to report on the cheapest and most expeditious mode of placing vessels of war on Lake Ontario when the exigency may arise, for establishing water communication from other waters to the Lakes.

A resolution had been offered approving President Lincoln's emancipation proclamation.

Another resolution had been offered, declaring that the Union must be preserved, and denouncing as guilty of high crime any executive or legislative department that shall propose or devise any acceptance of peace on any other basis than the integrity of the Union as it existed before the rebellion.

On the 4th, Mr. Stephens, of Pennsylvania, asked leave of Congress to introduce a Bill of Indemnity to free the President and his Ministers from all suits or actions at law for suspension of the writ of habeas corpus, and other unconstitutional acts committed during the progress of the war. The motion was opposed by the democratic party, and temporarily withdrawn.

COURTS MARTIAL ON FEDERAL GENERALS.

Three courts-martial were in progress to fix the responsibility of military failure where it ought to lie, and to serve by their verdicts to keep the officers of the army to the point of duty. General McDowell is charged with treachery; General Fitz John Porter with wilful disobedience of orders; and General Buell with gross mismanagement and incapacity. All these trials have already commenced. No one believes that General McDowell is guilty of anything worse than incompetency; and the prevalent belief is that he will be honourably acquitted. General Fitz John Porter's case will be more important. The charge against him is obviously meant to reach General McClellan, and will produce some curious revelations as the examinations proceed. General Buell seems for the present to have no friends; but, as the scene of his operations was remote, and the details are very imperfectly known, it is possible that he may have a better answer to make than his military rivals and political opponents imagine. As General McClellan is distinctly charged by General Halleck with delaying for eleven days an important movement which he was perceptibly ordered to execute immediately, it is possible that a fourth court-martial, surpassing in interest the previous three, will be ordered, to prove how thankless a task it is to hold high military command in a country where attorneys sit in judgment upon Generals, to interfere with plans they do not understand, and judge of strategy by its possible political rather than by its actual military results. General Pope, the vindication of whose military character at the expense of that of General McClellan seems to be the main purpose of General Halleck's report, not only is the accuser of and chief witness against General Fitz John Porter, but has brought charges against General Siegel, which the latter is bound to meet as a gentleman and a soldier; so that, all things considered, the spectacle presented in the highest military circles of the Federal army is anything but pleasant to the Republicans, who wish to exterminate the Southern people by military agencies, and to the Democrats, who cannot hope to uphold the Constitution as it is and restore the Union as it was without a strong army well officered.

FEDERAL CRUISERS IN THE WEST INDIES.—A French brig from Martinique arrived at St. Thomas on the 24th ult. She had on board forty-two men, being prisoners landed at Martinique by the Confederate steam-ship Alabama (No. 299). The forty-two men were taken from American ships captured by the Alabama—one, an East Indiaman, laden with a valuable cargo, having the American Consul, his wife, and family, from Mauritius, on board. The vessel was burnt, and the Consul, his family, and the crew taken on board and landed at Martinique. While the Alabama was lying there, the Federal war-steamer San Jacinto arrived and ran in near her, but was ordered by the Governor to come to an anchor or go some distance outside. She went outside the harbour and waited watching the Alabama. The latter, however, left in the night unseen by the San Jacinto, who at daylight went in search of her, but without success. The San Jacinto arrived at St. Thomas on the 25th of November. After coaling she put to sea, to windward, on the morning of the 26th. The released Consul, wife, and family, proceeded to St. Thomas by the Royal mail-steamer Solent, and stated that they were very kindly treated on board the Alabama. While the two ships were at Martinique, the captain of an American vessel in that port fired some rockets as signals to the San Jacinto regarding the movements of the Alabama. The Governor of Martinique had him arrested for so doing, and up to the time of the ship's departure he was still detained.

A TURKISH EXHIBITION.—The following announcement has been forwarded to the journals from the Turkish Embassy:—"A National Exhibition is to be opened at Constantinople on the 1st Ramazan (26th February, 1863), for three months. Although reserved exclusively for the products of the soil and industry of the country, nevertheless agricultural and industrial machines and implements, for practical use, from foreign manufactories will be admitted. Manufacturers wishing to exhibit such articles will enjoy the benefit of a remission of the customs' duties. It is well understood that the admission of foreign products will be limited to this sole category, and that a manufacturer cannot send more than one article of the same kind. Exhibitors must in the first place send to the Imperial Ottoman Embassy, or to a Consulate of the Sublime Porte, a duplicate list of the articles they wish to exhibit, stating the quality, quantity, and necessary dimensions, so that places may be reserved for them. The articles above mentioned, which, after having been exhibited, shall not have been sold on the exhibitor's account will not enjoy any other advantage on the part of the Imperial Government than the exemption from customs' duties."

MADAGASCAR.—It seems that the treaty lately entered into by France with King Radama II. gives the former country the possession of a fine port in the Island of Madagascar—that of Diego-Suarez. The King recognises the right of France to enter the port in question, and that fact has a certain importance, as, since the reign of Louis XIV., France has claimed the possession of Madagascar. The following are some details concerning this port:—"The Bay of Diego-Suarez, just ceded to France, is admirably situated for commercial purposes. It is near Cape Amber, at the north-east extremity of Madagascar; the country is healthy, and covered with forests of fine timber. The bay has been styled, by competent judges, one of the finest harbours in the world. It is about 2400 metres in breadth at the entrance, and in the middle is an island, 600 metres long, called Nossi-Volane, admirably adapted for defence, as batteries erected there and on the opposite shore would have complete command of both channels. The depth of the bay itself, and of the channels leading to it, is about eighteen fathoms. The bay is divided into three principal branches, and in the narrowest of these, on the western side, is the port of Niévre. Another branch runs along inland, and has plenty of creeks to receive small vessels. Some leagues north-west of the Bay of Diego-Suarez, beyond Cape Amber, is the port of Liverpool, which also presents great naval advantages. The whole of the peninsula lying between the two bays is perfectly healthy, and offers every advantage to settlers. The inhabitants of this part of the Island are little better than savages, and live in villages consisting of twenty or thirty huts miserably built. They are reported to have scarcely any idea of agriculture, although the country round is extremely fertile."

THE WINTER SEASON AT PAU.—A correspondent at Pau writes:—"After a short snap of very cold weather we are again luxuriating in an unclouded sun and a temperature of 56 degrees of Fahrenheit. Our foreign colony is more numerous this season than even last year, the English being, as usual, greatly in the ascendant, and taking the lead in hospitable entertainments of every description, while their kinsmen, the Americans, are obliged, in consequence of the sad civil war afflicting their native land, to keep somewhat aloof. Our railway, a new theatre, and a circus will, it is officially announced, be inaugurated in the course of another month. Four deer have just been presented by the Earl of H. to his countrymen of the 'Pau Drag run.' These animals are doubly valuable at this moment, when foxes for many miles round are quite exterminated."

cession of the IONIAN ISLANDS.—The telegrams from various quarters bring the assertion that England is about to cede the Ionian Islands to Greece. This intelligence must be accepted with the qualification that the cession can only be made with the consent of the Powers who signed the treaties of 1815. The statement that the English Government is willing, if it can ensure the stability and prosperity of the new dynasty, to yield up its protectorate of the Septinsular Republic is, we believe, not without foundation. The special mission of Mr. Elliot to the Provisional Government at Athens has reference to this, and to other important questions bearing on the future of Greece.—*Morning Post.*

COTTON IN TURKEY.—His Excellency Sayfett Effendi, Minister of Commerce, has ordered from England an extensive supply of American cotton-seed, for gratuitous distribution in Roumelia and Anatolia. A correspondent writes from Trikala:—"The success of our cotton crop this year has been remarkable, especially in the valley of Shirup, Carditz, and Erimia. We only want adequate encouragement in the shape of good seed and proper gins to place the cultivation on a very satisfactory basis for the future."

IRELAND.

THE O'CONNELL FAMILY.—A sister of Daniel O'Connell died last week at Tallyroan, Kilkenny, within a few hours of her husband, Counselor Finn, one of the founders of the Catholic Association, and formerly M.P. for that county. Mrs. Finn, who had been several years an invalid, died at five p.m.; and her husband expired at twelve p.m. His illness was of only a few days' duration. Being childless, they had for many years led a most secluded life, and their deathbeds were unbroken by the presence of a single friend. Mr. Finn was seventy-eight years old.

BREACH OF PROMISE.—A case of breach of promise, which has occurred in the county of Galway, is likely in a short time to occupy the attention of the gentlemen of "the long robe." The plaintiff is a young lady of considerable attractions and of high respectability, and whose case has elicited the warmest sympathies of her friends; while the defendant is in holy orders, and has lately been presented to a comfortable living through the influence of the plaintiff's family.

SCOTLAND.

DINNER TO LORD PALMERSTON IN EDINBURGH.—A meeting of the leading men connected with the Whigs in Edinburgh was held on Monday—Sir William Gibson Craig in the chair—when it was resolved to invite Lord Palmerston to a public dinner in Edinburgh on the occasion of his approaching visit to Scotland to be installed as Lord Rector of the University of Glasgow.

SINGULAR SUPERSTITION.—A correspondent transmits the following account of a superstition-ceremony which took place the other day at Neilston, in Renfrewshire:—"The blacksmith there is in possession of a fine young shesha, which, with her frolics, has caused great amusement amongst the boys of the town, while some calculating old gentlemen wondered what could be use of such an animal. But its usefulness was made apparent in a very queer manner the other day, by the appearance of a decent young Irish-woman with a child in her arms about five months old, with a request that she might be permitted to pass the child three times under the ass's belly. Of course her request was granted. Now, you must know that the ceremony was not to cure, but to prevent the child taking the hooping-cough. The coddie was immediately removed from the stable and solemnly led out to the yard. Meantime the woman had procured a handful of oatmeal, to be given to the coddie while the child was being passed and repassed under its belly. But care had to be taken lest the coddie should eat all the meal, as three piles were to be kept to be put into the child's mouth after the ceremony. All things being in readiness, the rite was about to be performed, when it was suddenly interrupted with such a roar of laughter from the two young fellows who were assisting that wellnigh frightened both coddie and child out of their senses; but, all being got quiet again, the child was safely passed under the animal's belly three times, and the 'piles' of meal duly put into the child's mouth, to the complete satisfaction of the mother, who said that 'the child would never take the hooping-cough while it lived, an' I'm very much obliged to yez an' there's another chil' comin' up in the evenin' to yez to be treated in the same way.'

THE PROVINCES.

WILFUL DESTRUCTION OF SHIPS.—George Ruxton, a shipowner, of Liverpool, was put upon his trial on Friday week for conspiring to destroy merchant-vessels with the intention of defrauding insurance-offices. The evidence against him was mainly that of alleged accomplices, one of whom, the master of a vessel belonging to Ruxton, stated that he had burnt the ship in accordance with Ruxton's orders. The trial was adjourned to Saturday, and eventually the jury acquitted the prisoner. He was, however, taken into custody again at once on a charge of defrauding a London insurance-office of £600. Ruxton was brought up on Tuesday at the Mansion House, London. He insured in the Universal Marine Office to the extent of £1000 on goods which he alleged he had shipped on board a vessel called the John Horne. The vessel was lost, and Ruxton claimed the money, producing bills of lading signed by the captain of the ship. It is stated that goods to such an amount were never shipped by him on board the vessel. The case was remanded, Ruxton being admitted to bail.

WELSH COLONY.—A person representing a Welsh emigration society left England by the November mail steamer, on his way to Buenos Ayres, with a view, in the first place, to find the best spot for a settlement on the Patagonian coast; and, in the second place, to conclude negotiations already entered into with the Government of the Argentine Confederation for the cession, on conditions of a merely nominal allegiance, of a portion of territory to be colonised by Welshmen exclusively. They have fixed on the peninsula of Valdes or its neighbourhood, in Patagonia, about 43deg. of south latitude, as the only place in the world suited for their purpose. No spot in the British empire, however remote from other settlements, can meet their views, for contact with the English and their language is the very thing they want to avoid.

A "VERY" STRANGE STORY.—A very singular occurrence is reported to have occurred a few days ago. On the 2nd inst., the steamer Jutland, of Hull, Captain Watson, while on her passage from Piliau, was caught in a storm. A sea struck the vessel, and a goose belonging to Mr. Tate, the second engineer of the Jutland, and which had a label tied to its leg bearing the owner's name and address, was washed overboard. The poor bird was carried away and lost sight of. It seems that some time afterwards it was devoured by a shark. Subsequently the shark was entrapped in the trawl of the fishing-smack Violet, of Hull. On the net being hove in the monster was opened, and the lost bird was found in its stomach. Observing the label on its leg, the captain of the smack determined to take care of it until he got home. On his arrival at home on Saturday he went to the address indicated on the label, and presented the goose to the engineer, who was naturally astounded to see the lost bird. He, however, recovered his surprise as well as his property, took it home and had it cooked for dinner on the following day, and pronounced the twice-eaten biped to be excellent.

THE WORSBROUGH DALE CATASTROPHE.—An adjourned meeting was held in the National Schoolroom, Worsbrough Dale, on Monday, with reference to the subscription for the sufferers by this dreadful calamity. The following amongst other subscriptions were announced:—Edmund's Man Colliery Company, £200; F. T. V. Wentworth, Esq., £100; T. Wentworth Edmonds, Esq., £50. A resolution was passed requesting those clergymen who are members of the committee to visit the families of the dead and injured, and administer such temporary relief as might be needed. The chairman announced that the explosion had been fatal to thirty-seven married men (including one widower), who had left thirty-six widows and ninety-three children; twenty-two single men and boys had perished—making a total of fifty-nine. Various projects were discussed, and it was understood that circulars would be at once issued and appeals made to the authorities of surrounding towns to aid the object of providing for the bereaved. Up to Monday the water was still being allowed to flow into the pit, with the view of drowning out the fire. The temperature of the air from the pit remained about the same as on Friday last. There were fewer indications of smoke, and not a few friends and neighbours who daily visit the pit were of opinion that the fire must be out, and that it was time an effort was made to get at the bodies.

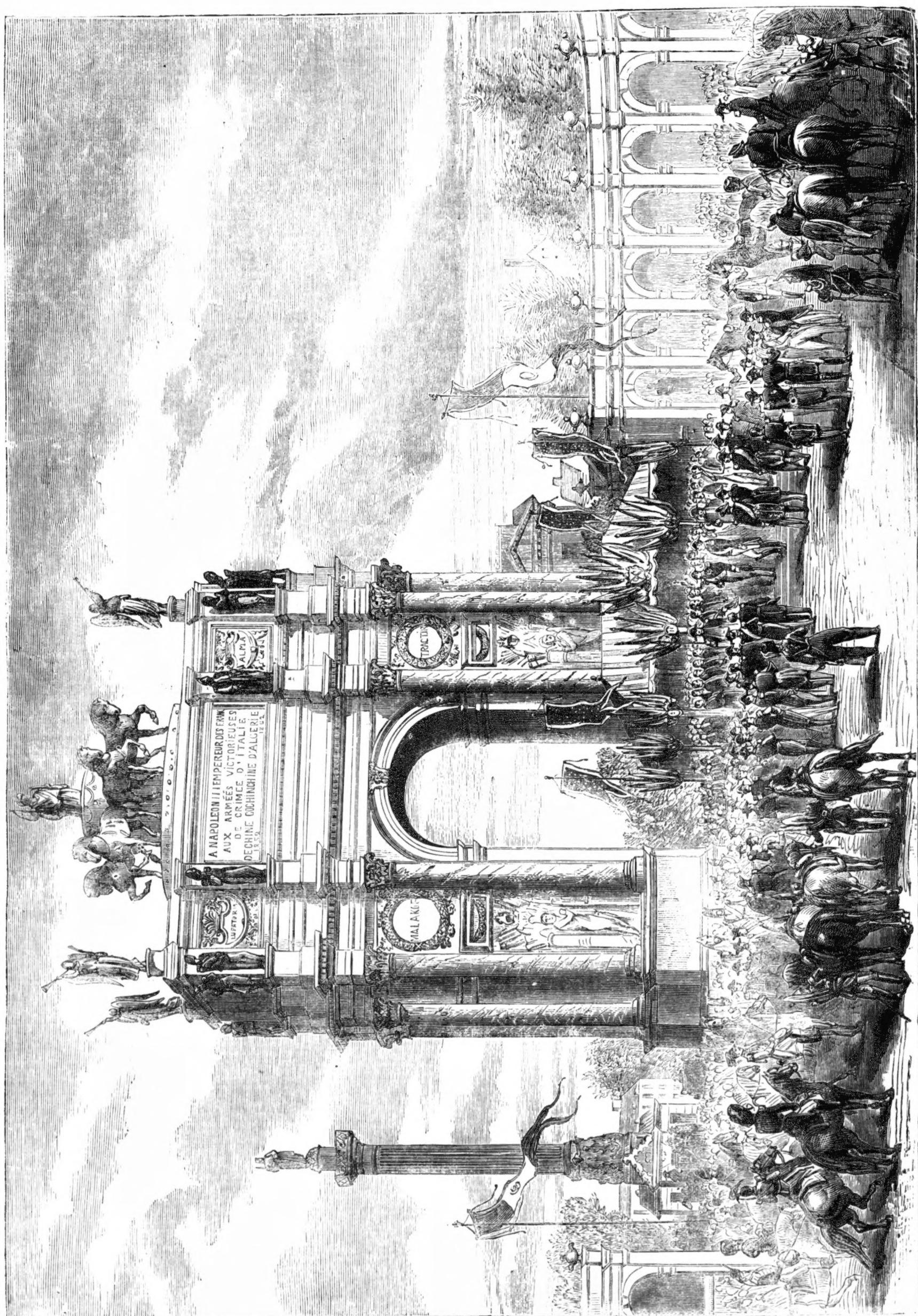
THE CHRISTMAS CATTLE MARKET.—The great Christmas cattle market was held on Monday. The supply was on a large scale, and the quality of the animals, though somewhat unequal, included a great number of prime animals in the various breeds. The supply of sheep was small positively, but relatively it was abundant, for who thinks of eating mutton for his Christmas dinner? The prices were, we believe, satisfactory to the breeders.

DESPERATE AFFRAY.—A serious affray took place on Monday night in High-street, Borrough. A quarrel between two men, who had been playing at dominoes at some house in the neighbourhood, resulted in a fight, which caused a large crowd to assemble. One of the combatants was seen to stab the other in the side with a knife, with which, after it had been wrested from him by some of the bystanders, he was himself stabbed in the head. The latter was taken to the police-station and the other to the hospital. Another man in the crowd was also found to have been stabbed—all the wounds being rather of a serious nature.

LOSS OF THE AVON MAIL-STEAMER.—The Royal Mail Company's steamer Avon, while lying alongside the wharf at Colon with two anchors down, was driven ashore, on the morning of the 22nd ult., by a norther and the heavy rollers setting in the Bay. At the time of going ashore the Avon had not received any of the cargo waiting at Colon to be shipped by her, but she had received the bullion from San Francisco, about 78 bars of silver, and 100 cases of specie, value about £200,000. She also had about 300 packages of cargo from Grey Town, principally indiarubber, all of which, it is expected, will be recovered. The crew were landed by means of a warp from the ship to the shore, and so passed along it through the surf, which was running over the railway up to the houses. On the 25th, when the Tamar left Colon for St. Thomas, the Avon was settling down aft, her rudder-post was gone, and it was expected she would become a total wreck.

OPENING OF THE BOULEVARD EUGENE.

THE Engraving on page 544 represents the opening of the new Boulevard Eugene in Paris on Sunday, the 7th inst., and of which a full account appeared in our columns last week (see page 535). The new street is one of that series of extensive improvements which the Emperor relies on for enabling him to emulate the boast of Augustus as to Rome, that he "found the city built of brick and left it of marble." Possibly the modern Caesar may have even a still more legitimate ground of self-gratulation, and be able to affirm that he found Paris one of the most unhealthy, ill-ventilated, and inconvenient cities in the world, and that he left her streets the widest, the airiest, and the cleanest in Europe—a more worthy object of ambition than his uncle's list of power and more glorious than all his victories.



INAUGURATION OF THE BOULEVARD PRINCE EUGENE.—THE EMPEROR OF THE FRENCH RECEIVING THE ADDRESS OF THE MUNICIPAL AUTHORITIES.



CHRISTMAS IN INDIA.—(DRAWN BY FLORENCE CLAXTON.)—SEE PAGE 562.



CHRISTMAS EVE, AT THE MERMAID TAVERN, IN SHAKSPEARE'S TIME.—(DRAWN BY J. A. PASQU'ER.)

CHRISTMAS EVE AT THE MERMAID TAVERN.

If the sign of the Mermaid is to be found no longer in Cornhill, any more than the Standard of the May, we all know the reason. John Keats long ago told it to us:

I have heard that on a day
Mine host's sign-board flew away,
Nobody knew whither, till
An astrologer's old quill
To a sheepskin gave the story,—
Said he saw you in your glory,
Underneath a new old-sign
Sipping beverage divine,
And pledging with contented smack
The Mermaid in the Zodiac.

The scene represented in our Engraving, however, took place, if it ever did take place, before the sign was removed from mine host's door, and lifted to a place among the constellations—a place where, according to Keats (who ought to know, for he had the true Elizabethan stuff in him, and the more he is criticised the greater he shows), the members of the Mermaid Club—Shakspeare, Beaumont, Ben Jonson, Fletcher, Soden, Carew, and the rest (for whose portraits please cast your eyes on the wooden)—a place where these Olympian gentlemen are still tippling—tippling "beverage divine," and, by parity of reason, smoking divine tobacco. There, it is certain, they get no sack or canary adulterated with lime (the sophisticated drink abhorred of Falstaff), but only genuine wholesome liquor. And, ah! the birdseye that can be made out of the plant that grows among the asphodel! The Club must be having a jolly time of it up in the Zodiac, and yet see how Keats addresses them:

Souls of poets dead and gone,
What elysium have ye known,
Happy field or mossy cavern,
Choicer than the Mermaid Tavern?
Have ye tipped drink more fine
Than mine host's Canary wine?
Or are fruits of Paradise
Sweeter than those dainty pies
Of venison? O, generous food!
I rest as though bold Robin Hood
Would, with his maid Marian,
Sup and bouse from horn and can.

So strong does he consider must be the links which bind a poet's memory to that "throne of felicity" which is, according to Johnson—with the *h*—a tavern chair, that he cannot conceive the "Mermaid" in the skies furnishing better quarters than the Mermaid in Cornhill. Certainly, that is a snug Christmas Eve party, and the wits appear happy. A little boisterous, all except the Master Wit, who keeps up his proper dignity; but not too far gone, or, we trust, about to go too far. Yet there's an antique depository of liquors down in the corner, which looks like making a night of it; and it is not impossible that a gorging party may ask some of them what they mean by being so "tight" as they walk home. Well, thank goodness! men wore swords in those days, and knew how to use them; so that Mr. Shakspeare will not have to rely upon Dogberry or Verges for protection if he should chance to be set upon. Now we think of it, the presence of the Master Wit at that meeting, and in the chair, too, is a pledge that the gallants will not sit *too* late—not into the early hours of the day. *His* face is not the face of a reveller; and he has his thoughts, you may be sure. Ah! if we could get at them in their brightness and plenitude, what a Christmas Eve we might any of us have!

THE ATLANTIC TELEGRAPH.

A REPORT has been made to the Admiralty by Captain Orlebar, captain in charge of the Newfoundland survey, on the proposed routes for the Atlantic telegraph. He says, writing from Prince Edward Island on the 24th of November:—

"Herewith you will receive the charts containing the soundings taken in Trinity and Conception Bays, and also eastward of St. John to the meridian of 50 deg. west. A dotted red line indicates the route I consider best adapted for the Atlantic telegraph cable, and for which I beg to submit the following reasons:—

"1. You will observe that it is only the most modern line of offshore soundings that gives muddy bottom, and that this leads right into the mouth of Trinity Bay. The soundings further south are more irregular, less deep, and give stones, rock, and sand. At the entrance of Conception Bay the soundings have the same character, giving fifty fathoms less depth than Trinity Bay.

"2. Also in Trinity Bay a channel, with muddy bottom five miles wide and more than 130 fathoms deep, can be carried from the offing more than forty-five miles up the bay to New Pelican, where it approaches within a mile of the south shore.

"3. The nature of the bottom was everywhere noted, and specimens of it have been prepared for the microscope by Mr. T. J. Leeming. The examination of these specimens, and of the rocks on the shore of Trinity and Conception Bays, which are of the silurian system, leads me to suppose that there is nothing on the shores or at the bottom likely to impair the working of the telegraph cable. On this subject I inclose a memorandum by Mr. T. J. Leeming, naturalist.

"4. Trinity Bay is twenty miles wide at the entrance, and is well lighted by Cape Bonavista and Catalina Green Island lights on the north side, and Baccalieu Island light on the south. Icebergs generally ground on the shoal banks off Catalina and Cape Bonavista, and even those that enter the bays are most frequently driven over to the north side.

"5. In Fitter's Cove, New Pelican, which is too exposed for vessels to anchor, the bottom is sand, with scattered rounded stones, and at its head there is a beach of fine sand, on which the telegraph cable, if protected by a sheath of iron near the land-wash, might be safely landed. It would have to traverse for half a mile a rocky slope, having a depth of thirty fathoms, decreasing to eleven fathoms, but it appears tolerably even, and is too far within the bay to be visited by icebergs or disturbed by the ocean swell.

"6. On the northern side of this bay the soundings are more irregular and the bottom rocky, whilst there is more ocean swell and more danger from icebergs.

"7. For these reasons I think the western terminus of the ocean telegraph cable should be at New Pelican."

ROME AND ITALY.—A pamphlet, by M. E. Rendu, has just appeared in Paris, entitled "The Pontifical Sovereignty and Italy," which advocates, not the absolute suppression of the temporal power, but a radical transformation of it; such as has been suggested by Father Ventura and others. The author would have the Pope remain the nominal sovereign of Rome, but give up the direction of all non-spiritual affairs to an Italian Diet, sitting permanently in the holy city. As M. Rendu is reported to be a sincere Catholic, this opuscule makes a certain sensation. Even the *France*, which has been favoured with an early proof, speaks respectfully of it, and merely "reserves" its opinion as to the merits of the project.

LOSS OF AN ENGLISH VESSEL WITH EIGHT HANDS.—On Saturday intelligence was received of the total loss of the English schooner Caroline, of Salcombe, and all hands with the exception of one. It appears that she sailed from Great Yarmouth on the 22nd ult. for Leghorn, and on the 3rd inst. she struck on a reef near Sainte Petre, a few miles to the westward of Cadiz, and almost immediately capsized. She soon began to break up, and the master, Captain White, his mate, and six hands were drowned, only one of the crew being saved.

A FRIEND IN NEED.—In one of the hospitals at Alexandria we saw a young fellow near an open window lustily singing, "I'm a bold soldier boy." "And what is the matter with you?" "Blind, Sir; blind as a bat." Poor Joe Parsons was in front at Antietam Creek, and a ball passed directly through his eye, across his face, destroying his sight for ever. But he was as happy as a lark. "It might ha' been worse, yer see. I was hit," he said, "and it knocked me down. I lay there all night, and the next day the fight was renewed. I could stand the pain, yer see; but the balls was flying all round, and I wanted to get away. I couldn't see nothin', though. At last I heard a feller groanin' beyond me. 'Hello!' says I. 'Hello, yourself,' says he. 'Who be yer?' says I—'a rebel?' 'You're a Yankee,' says he. 'So I am,' says I. 'What's the matter with you?' 'My leg's smashed,' says he. 'Can't yer walk?' 'No.' 'Can yer see?' 'Yes.' 'Well, says I, 'you're a — rebel; but will you do me a little favour?' 'I will,' says he, 'if I can.' Then I says, 'Well, ol' butternut, I can't see nothin'.' My eyes is knocked out, but I ken walk. Come over yere. Let's git out of this. You pint the way, an' I'll tote yer off the field on my back.' 'Bully for you,' says he. And so we managed to get together. We shook hands on it. I took a wink outer his canteen, and he got on to my shoulders. I did the walkin' for both, and he did the navigatin'. An' he didn't make me carry him straight into a rebel Colonel's tent, a mile away, I'm a liar! How'sever, the Colonel came up, an' says he, 'Whar d'yer come from? Who be yer?' I told him. He said I was done for, and couldn't do no more shoot'n; an' he sent me over to our lines. So I came down here with the wounded boys, where we're doin' pretty well, all things considered." "But you will never see the light again, my poor fellow." "That's so," he answered, glibly, "but I can't help it, you notice. I did my duty; got shot pop in the eye—an' that's my misfort'n, not my fault—as the old man said of his blind hoss. But—I'm a bold soldier boy."

THE LATE PRINCE CONSORT.

A REMARKABLE volume, entitled "The Principal Speeches and Addresses of His Royal Highness the Prince Consort," was published on Monday—the day following the anniversary of the Prince's death. The volume contains many documents which have never hitherto been made public. Amongst these are several relating to suggestions made by the Duke of Wellington that on his death the Prince Consort should assume the command in chief of the Army. The occasion on which this suggestion was made was the death of Sir J. Macdonald, the Adjutant-General, in March, 1850. It was then proposed to amalgamate the two offices of Adjutant and Quartermaster-General under a single head, to be called the Chief of the Staff. On this project the Duke of Wellington had several conversations with the Prince at Windsor. The following extracts from the Prince's minutes of these conversations are now published:—

Windsor Castle, April 3, 1850.

I went yesterday to see the Duke of Wellington in his room after his arrival at the Castle; our conversation soon turning to the question of the vacant Adjutant-Generalship. I asked the Duke what he was prepared to recommend. He said he had had a letter on the subject recommending the union of the two offices of Adjutant-General and Quartermaster-General, and he placed his answer to it in my hands. He then proceeded to say that he thought it necessary that we should cast our eyes a little before us. He was past eighty years, and would next month enter upon his eighty-second. He was, thank God! very well and strong, and ready to do anything; but he could not last for ever, and in the natural course of events we must look to a change before long. As long as he was there he did the duty of all the offices himself. . . . To form a new office by uniting the duties of Adjutant-General and Quartermaster-General in the person of a chief of the Staff, as was the practice in some foreign armies, would be to appoint two different persons to do the same duty, which would never answer. The Chief of the Staff would again have to subdivide his office into an Adjutant-General and Quartermaster-General's department, and nothing would be gained.

However, the Duke saw the greatest advantage in having a Chief of the Staff, if, after his death, that arrangement should be made which he had always looked to and which he considered the best—viz., that I should assume the command of the army.

He was sure I could not do it without such a Chief of the Staff, who would be responsible before the public, and carry on the official communications with the other Government departments. For this contingency he was prepared to organise the machinery now, and he would answer for its success. . . .

I answered to the Duke that I should be very slow to make up my mind to undertake so great a responsibility—that I was not sure of my fitness for it on account of my want of military experience, &c. (to which the Duke replied, that with good honest intentions one could do a great deal, and that he should not be the least afraid on that score)—whether I could perform the duties consistently with my other avocations, as I should not like to undertake what I could not carry through, not knowing what time or attention they would require.

The Duke answered that it would certainly require both time and attention, for nothing could be done without my knowledge, or without my order, but that the detail would be worked out by the Chief of the Staff. He had thoroughly considered that, and would make it work. . . . He always stood up for the principle of the Army being commanded by the Sovereign, and he endeavoured to make the practice agree with that theory by scrupulously taking on every point the Queen's pleasure before he acted. But, were he gone, he saw no security unless I undertook the command myself, and thus supplied what was deficient in the constitutional working of the theory arising from the circumstance of the present Sovereign being a lady. Strictly, constitutionally I should certainly be responsible for my acts; but before the world in general the Chief of the Staff would bear the responsibility, and for that office the man of the greatest name and weight in the Army ought to be selected. He repeated that he thought this the most desirable arrangement, and would at once work it out to the best of his ability. . . . I begged him to leave me time to consider the proposal.

In the evening the Queen gave the Duke of Wellington an audience, I being present. After having set out by saying he was most anxious to let the Queen know and feel all he knew and felt about it—in fact, to speak aloud—the Duke repeated what he had said to me in the morning, and we discussed the question further. I said that there were several points which still required to be considered. . . . The offer was so tempting for a young man that I felt bound to look most closely at all the objections to it in order to come to a right decision. . . . The Queen, as a lady, was not able at all times to perform the many duties imposed upon her; moreover, she had no private secretary who worked for her, as former Sovereigns had had. The only person who helped her and who could assist her in the multiplicity of work which ought to be done by the Sovereign was myself. I should be very sorry to undertake any duty which would absorb my time and attention so much for one department as to interfere with my general usefulness to the Queen. . . . The Queen added that I already worked harder than she liked to see and then she thought was good for my health, which I did not allow, answering that, on the contrary, business must naturally increase with time, and ought to increase, if the Sovereign's duties to the country were to be thoroughly performed; but that I was anxious no more should fall upon her than could be helped.

The Duke seemed struck with this consideration, and said he had not overlooked it, but might not have given it all the weight it deserved, and that he would reflect further upon it.

We agreed at last that this question could not be satisfactorily solved unless we knew the exact duties which had to be performed; and the Queen charged the Duke to draw up a memorandum in which these should be detailed and his general opinion explained, so that we might find a decision on that paper. This the Duke promised to do.

Windsor Castle, April 6, 1850.

After a good deal of reflection on the Duke of Wellington's proposal, I went to pay him a visit yesterday morning in his room, and found him prepared with his memorandum, which he handed me. After having read it, I said to him that I must consider my position as a whole, which was that of a consort and confidential adviser and assistant of a female Sovereign. Her interest and good should stand foremost, and all other considerations must be viewed in reference to this and in subordination to it. The question then was simply whether I should not weaken my means of attending to all parts of the constitutional position alike—political, social, and moral—if I devoted myself to a special branch, however important that might be; and that I was afraid this would be the consequence of my becoming Commander-in-Chief. It was quite true that the Sovereign being a lady naturally weakened her relation to the Army, and that the duty rested upon me of supplying that deficiency, and would do so still more when the protection which the Duke afforded to the Crown should be unfortunately withdrawn. But I doubted whether this might not be accomplished without my becoming especially responsible for the command of the Army. There was no branch of public business in which I was not now supporting the Queen, &c. . . . The Duke replied he quite saw that my position ought to be looked at as a whole. He felt the extreme difficulty and delicacy of it, and was kind enough to add that he approved of, and the public did full justice to, the way in which I had hitherto maintained it. I begged him to leave me a little time for consideration, that I wanted to study his memorandum, and would finally write to him on the subject.

Ultimately the Prince formally declined the position in the following admirable letter:—

My dear Duke.—The Queen and myself have thoroughly considered your proposal to join the offices of Adjutant-General and Quartermaster-General into one of a Chief of the Staff, with a view to facilitate the future assumption of the command of the army by myself. . . . The question whether it will be advisable that I should take the command of the Army or not has been most anxiously weighed by me, and I have come to the conclusion that my decision ought entirely and solely to be guided by the consideration whether it would interfere with or assist my position of consort to the Sovereign, and the performance of the duties which this position imposes upon me.

This position is a most peculiar and delicate one. While a female Sovereign has great many disadvantages in comparison with a King, yet if she is married, and her husband understands and does his duty, her position, on the other hand, has many compensating advantages, and, in the long run, will be found even to be stronger than that of a male Sovereign. But this requires that the husband should entirely sink his own individual existence in that of his wife—that he should aim at no power by himself, or for himself—should shun all ostentation—assume no separate responsibility before the public—but make his position entirely a part of hers—fill up every gap which, as a woman, she would naturally leave in the exercise of her royal functions—continually and anxiously watch every part of the public busi-

* The anxiety of the Queen lest the Prince should injure his health by his excessive attention to public business naturally continued to increase. In 1860, when the Society of Arts renewed the proposal for holding a second International Exhibition, the Queen wrote to Lord Granville, without the knowledge of the Prince, expressing her earnest hope that he (Lord Granville) would do all that in his power to prevent the responsibility and labour of conducting the undertaking being thrown in any way on his Royal Highness. The Queen felt deeply the necessity of averting any addition to the heavy work already entailed on the Prince by the assistance and support (every day more needful to her) which he gave her in the transaction of all public business; and her Majesty was convinced that he could not again undertake the labour he had gone through in conducting the first exhibition to its successful termination without injury to that health which was not only most precious to herself and his family, but to the country, and even to the world.

ness, in order to be able to advise and act for her at any moment. In any of the multifarious and difficult questions or duties brought before her, sometimes international, sometimes political, or social, or personal. As the natural head of her family, superintendent of her household, manager of her private affairs, sole confidential adviser in policies, and only assistant in her communications with the officers of the Government, he is besides the household of the Queen, the tutor of the Royal children, the private secretary of the Sovereign, and her permanent Minister.

How far would it be consistent with this position to undertake the management and administration of a most important branch of the public service, and the individual responsibility attaching to it—becoming an executive officer of the Crown, receiving the Queen's commands through the Secretaries of State, &c.? I feel sure that, having undertaken the responsibility, I should not be satisfied to leave the business and real work in the hands of another (the Chief of the Staff), but should feel it my duty to look to them myself. But while I should in this manner perform duties which would be able to perform better than myself, who have not had the advantage of such experience, most important duties connected with the welfare of the Sovereign would be left unperformed, which nobody could perform but myself. I am afraid, therefore, that I must discard the tempting idea of being placed in command of the British Army.

With reference to this transaction the *Times* remarks:—"The Queen could not have done greater honour to the memory of her husband than by publishing the history of this great act of self-denial. It is more honourable to him than a hundred monuments. It shows the Prince clear-headed, self-denying, and a statesman in advantage of contrast even with the Duke of Wellington. There will never be a doubt that in this matter the Prince was right and the Duke was wrong. It is one of the purest and the pleasantest chapters of history which has been turned in these days."

PROMISED RETRENCHMENT.

RETRENCHMENT in the military and naval expenditure of the country is a question that is understood (we believe rightly) to be engaging the serious attention of the Cabinet preparatory to the meeting of Parliament. We think there is no doubt but that reductions to a considerable amount will be effected, and we are sure that, under the control of a Government of which Lord Palmerston is chief, those reductions, in whatver direction they may be made, will be effected without in any way injuring the real effect of either service. The military committee of the Cabinet have had several meetings at the Horse Guards upon the subject, and searching inquiries have been instituted to ascertain in what direction savings upon the next year's estimates may be most judiciously carried into effect. We believe that, however great the desire for economy in the national expenditure may be, the wish to maintain our defensive establishments in a condition of efficiency is equally strong in the public mind. Without pretending to know anything of what may at present be shrouded in official secrecy, it is not difficult to indicate some points at which the present system offers the opportunity for very material saving, without, in the least degree, impairing the strength and efficiency of the national forces. The administration of the Army seems to require a great deal to be added to the efficiency of the whole military machine, while leading to such an amount of retrenchment in the expenditure as may tell with very greenleaf effect on the estimates, and give considerable satisfaction to the taxpayer. There is the extravagant staff in Ireland, of the utility of which, in these days of rapid communication, the most practical authorities entertain the strongest doubts, and in curtailing which, and the various appointments connected with it, a judicious economy may be freely exercised. Then, too, there are the numerous districts staffs, which seem to be calculated more to complicate the administration of the Army than to be of any real use in the present day, but of which there is enormous expense. There is here an ample opportunity for the pruning-knife to be applied. On too many former occasions, when a season of retrenchment appeared to have arrived, a reduction of strength was the rule adopted almost at a blow. So many thousand of rank and file, so many men who had been trained into effective soldiers at a great expense, to be discharged; or so many ships to be paid off, and their crews dispersed. We hope that the circumstances of the times, when the estimates for the coming year are prepared, will be such as to admit of some reduction in the establishment of both the Army and Navy; but we lack administrative resources, especially in the staff arrangements, for a more effective and more lasting economy. In the military service of the colonies we may expect that it will be found practicable to make some material saving.

The transition state in which our Navy still is will require a continued outlay for purposes of construction that will, in all probability, neutralise a great measure of retrenchment made in other directions. Increased dock accommodation at Portsmouth is rendered indispensable by the enlarged size of the ships that are now taking their place in the list of our active Navy. Whatever form the Navy of the future may be destined to take there is one fact settled, and that is, that the new ships will be vastly bigger than the old. Great length is the unvarying accompaniment of all the new forms. There is scarcely a dock at Portsmouth long enough to receive our new class of frigates, and it would be a matter, not of economy but of penny-wisdom and pound-foolishness to neglect this subject. We believe that provision for improvements so much required will be made in the next estimates; and we are sure that in no quarter can it be pretended that expense for such an object is unnecessary. The main and gratifying feature, however, of the estimates for both Army and Navy, we think, will be found to be a material retrenchment of expenditure, effected in such a manner as not to impair in the least degree that high state of efficiency to which both services have been brought.—*Observer*.

THE IONIAN ISLANDS.—Of these islands, which it is said we are about to relinquish, the volume of colonial statistics just issued by the Board of Trade reports the population, in 1860, to be 232,426, and the area 1041 square miles in round numbers, the six-hundredth part of our possessions in point of population and the three-hundredth part in area. The production of the islands in 1860 comprised 69,553 barrels of olive oil, worth from 50s. to 5s., a barrel; 30,250-897lb. of currants, worth from five guineas upwards per 1000lb.; and 148,539 barrels of wine, ranging from 1s. to 2s. a barrel. Only 67,529 bushels of wheat were grown in the year. The soil is more favourable to grape cultivation than to the raising of corn; and, indeed, corn is the chief import taken. The live stock consisted of 13,174 horses, 10,374 horned cattle, 131,684 sheep, and 111,907 goats; a considerable increase within these few years. The revenue of 1860 was £140,855; the expenditure, £141,137. In the last twelve years the Ionian revenue has only on two occasions provided the exchequer with a surplus. The export duty on the olive crop forms the standard and mainspring of Ionian finance; and, the trade being as speculative as the hop trade in England, the revenue is liable to violent fluctuations. The export duty on oil produced above £80,000 in 1868, only £15,000 in 1859, and £27,000 in 1860. More than a third of the revenue of the year was raised from the export duties of 19*per cent.* on olive oil and currants, and a still larger proportion from import duties; only £21,000 by stamp duties and other inland taxation of a trifling character, no article of consumption (save salt and gunpowder) being taxed except on exportation or importation. The return of imports and exports for 1860, a year of bad harvest, The imports amounted to £1,366,303, the exports to only £619,667. The imports from Turkey amounted to £432,980; from Greece, £106,711; from Austria, £152,366; from the United Kingdom, £355,020, cotton being the chief item in the export from this country. The entrances and clearances of shipping in 1860 were 517,320 tons inwards, 525,862 tons outwards. They have shown a large increase within the last two or three years. Wages in 1860 averaged 35s. a month for domestic labour, 1s. 6d. a day for pedlars, and 2s. 6d. a day in trade. The Ionian peasant is said to be not very provident. There was an abundant harvest in 1858, and the marriages the next year were 4002; the harvest in 1859 was defective, and the marriages of 1860 fell to 1358. The population contains no less than 116 men to every 100 women; and it is singular that for several years the births, marriages, and deaths in Corfu have all been more than in Cephalonia, where the population is greater.

RUSSIAN SWINDLER.—A Russian General who recently died at Bonn, leaving a great many unaccepted bills as his only property, contrived to cause a considerable sensation even from the other side of the grave. Some time previous to his death the General, who belonged to the very numerous class of travellers who have made the Rhine people look upon tourists as blacklegs, whom it is almost a Christian duty to cheat, posted a letter at the local office, declaring it to contain 600,000 roubles in paper money. Such valuable epistles being highly charged for under the Prussian tariff, a postage of £60 was demanded of the addressee on the presentation of the letter at St. Petersburg. He, in consequence, declined to put himself in possession of the 600,000 roubles at the considerable outlay required; and, such an eventuality having been foreseen by the remittance, the precious envelope and its alleged contents successively went the round of Russia, half a dozen other persons having been marked upon the address for delivery in case of the first addressed refusing to use the opportunity of bettering his fortune. However, the latter's jaunt through the vast expanse of the Russian empire proved in vain. Each addresser in succession showed equal magnanimity in modestly declining the acceptance of the treasure; and, after making a circuit of all Russia, there remained nothing for the golden note but to return to Bonn, and be restored to the hands of the Cossacks who sent it. At that moment, or rather on its arrival at Bonn, the letter was liable to a postage of £125. It is useless to add that the contents, which were examined for the benefit of the creditors, proved to be one of the practical jokes deceased had been in the habit of playing upon his neighbours; although it is rather too bad an instance of the profligacy to go on contracting debts beyond the usual limit of one's existence in the flesh. The General, it must be supposed, posted the letter to make people believe in his wealth when he could not pay for the dinner he had from the hotel; but, as a true Russian, he overdid his part. Had he put 1000 roubles instead of the 600,000 he might, perhaps, have imposed upon the credulity of such creditors as happened to hear of the letter at the time it was sent.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

HER MAJESTY, with the Royal Household, was expected to leave Windsor on Saturday (to-day), and remain there till after the Christmas holidays, when she will return to Windsor Castle, there to remain till after the marriage of the Prince of Wales, and also the expected accouchement of the Princess Alice.

THE ROYAL MAUSOLEUM AT FROGMORE was consecrated on Wednesday by the Bishop of Oxford, in the presence of her Majesty, the Royal family, and the principal officers of the Queen's household.

EDWARD ELPHINSTONE is about to marry Miss Dalrymple-Elphinstone, daughter of Francis Anstruther Dalrymple-Elphinstone, Esq., and niece of Sir James Dalrymple-Horn-Elphinstone, Bart., M.P., for Portsmouth.

A MARRIAGE has been arranged to take place between the Hon. the Master of Powis and Lady Mary Gordon, eldest daughter of the Earl of Abergavenny.

A SON OF SIR FRANCIS O'NEIL, BART., the undoubted descendant of a hundred Kings, and the cousin of a Duke and of the Peers of the Realm, is lying paralysed in a Dublin garret.

IT IS RUMOURED that Mr. Froule is about to resign the editorship of *Punch's Magazine*.

A LIFE OF VICTOR HUGO, written, it is said, by his wife, is shortly to be published in Paris.

FIVE THOUSAND FRANCS have been sent by the Duc d'Anjou, and 5000 by the Comte de Paris and the Duc de Chartres, to the subscription for the relief of the suffering cotton-workmen of France.

A COMMISSION has been appointed by the Turkish Government to inquire into the working of the bankruptcy laws in different European countries, with a view to reform the system now followed in the Ottoman empire.

QUEEN ISABELLA OF SPAIN recently paid a visit to the Alhambra, in Granada, and was so struck with the beauty and grandeur of the palace that she ordered its immediate restoration, irrespective of expense.

AN ENGLISH MAGAZINE has appeared at St. Petersburg. It is called the *Novi Magazine*.

THE COUNCIL OF THE ART-UNION OF LONDON offer a premium of £600, under conditions, for a statue or group in marble. The competition is to be by plaster works, and will be open to artists of all nations.

THE PRUSSIAN MINISTER AT ROME, who recently became insane, is said to be in such a dangerous state that there is little hope he will recover his reason.

THE TRANSPORT OF ARMS, more or less secretly and in rather large quantities, into the Turkish provinces is at present causing the Porte much uneasiness.

M. HORACE VERNET has become so much better within the last few days that he is about to be removed to his residence at Hyères. It is hoped that the milder climate of that locality will restore his health.

GARIBOLDI has been invited to pay a visit to Naples when his wound is healed, and fifty-three Neapolitan ladies have undertaken to pay all the expenses of the General and his suite as long as he stay.

AN ITALIAN JOURNAL credits King Victor Emmanuel with a bon-mot, uttered during the late Ministerial crisis, and while the question of dissolving Parliament was still undecided. His Majesty, it affirms, felt disposed of going out hunting one day, but was prevailed by heavy rain. "Ah," said he, "I see that, whether I will or not, I must keep my Chamber."

AT BARCELONA recently a man was sentenced to be confined in a lunatic asylum or having, under the belief that he might die suddenly without the usual religious consolations, killed two persons in order to be condemned to death, and thereby make sure of dying as a Christian.

THE RIGHT HON. SPENCER WALPOLE has been appointed by the Archbishop of Canterbury an Ecclesiastical Commissioner, in the room of Mr. Davies. He filled the same office as nominee of the late Archbishop until he resigned on his appointment by Lord Derby as Home Secretary.

THE LAST OF THE SCAFFOLDING IN THE INTERIOR OF NOTRE-DAME is now being removed, and the operation of fixing stained glass in the windows is almost terminated. There is every reason to believe that the cathedral will be restored to public worship on the 25th, as announced.

SEVERAL ANCIENT PIECES OF GOLD AND SILVER have been picked up on the shores of Amberst Island, one of the Magdalen group. The coins are French, bear date from 1680 to 1623, and proceeded undoubtedly from some submerged wreck.

THE TICKET-OF-LEAVE SYSTEM has been introduced into the kingdom of Saxony, and has, during the short period for which it has been tried, been found to net well.

THE SUM necessary for the erection of a statue to Prince Albert of England having been collected in Saxe-Coburg, the Grand Duke has approved of the spot chosen by Queen Victoria for its erection—viz., in the Market-place at Coburg.

ACCOUNTS FROM MELBOURNE state that the Murray River and Sandhurst Railway was opened on Oct. 15. A meeting was about to be held of deputies from all the colonies to establish a common tariff and free trade.

THE LATE M. VERHAEGEN, of Brussels, has bequeathed 100,000f. to the University of Brussels. Other clauses of his will give 50,000f. to the charitable institutions of that capital, and 50,000f. to the Masonic Lodge des Amis Philanthropes, of which he was the venerable.

A HAMBURG LETTER of the 10th says:—It is confidently asserted here that the Swedish Government has made overtures to several of our bankers for contracting a loan of twenty millions of rix dollars (4s. 6d. each), to be employed in completing the railways of Sweden.

IT IS STATED that one of the victims ordered to be executed by General McNeil at Palmyra, Missouri, on the 18th ult., was a man who had a wife and several children dependent altogether upon his daily labour for their support. A young man, knowing the condition of the family, offered himself as a substitute for the husband and father, was accepted, and was one of the ten who were shot.

A MAGNIFICENT WHITE CARRARA MARBLE STAIRCASE, which is to cost not less than 150,000f., is at this moment being prepared at Vaugirard. It is to be sent in pieces to Baron de Rothschild, of London, in whose residence it is to be placed.

NOTICE has been issued at Washington that ladies desirous of going to their friends and families in the South must obtain leave from the Federal Government, and that no one must take more than one package of female wearing apparel, not weighing above 100lb., and subjects to inspection. "If any contraband property is found the party will be subject to imprisonment during the war."

THE AUTHORITIES AT NAPLES have determined to put an end to the impositions to which foreigners who wish to see the curiosities of that city and neighbourhood, particularly the ruins of Pompeii and of Herculaneum, have been long subjected. An order has been issued that for the future the guides shall only charge 2f. for each person and 1f. for each child, and any infraction of this order will be severely punished.

LATELY a most important discovery has been made by Mr. Anderson, the Assistant-Superintendent of Woolwich Arsenal, of a simple process by which steel is rendered as tough as wrought-iron without losing its hardness. This change is effected in a few minutes by heating the metal and plunging it in oil, after which the steel can be bent, but scarcely broken.

SIR BERNARD BURKE, in his book on the vicissitudes of families, mentions that the present Sir Frederick Echlin, Bart., can neither read nor write, and lives on charity. The widow of the late Sir Samuel Norwich, Bart. (a lawyer), is a washerwoman at Kettering. Not long since an English Baronet owned and drove a hansom cab in London, and another was acting as foreman in a Regent-street linendrapery's shop.

MR. WILLIAM HENRY GLADSTONE, eldest son of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, took his degree at Oxford last week, having obtained, after leaving Eton, a scholarship of Christchurch, a first-class in moderations; and, for his degree, a second in classics, and a third in law and modern history. His father took a double first as a student of Christchurch.

A WRITER in the *Times* states that, crediting the depositors with the interest that has accrued upon their accounts between the 1st of September, 1861, and the 1st of September, 1862—in spite of the excess of withdrawals, and ignoring *per force* the full counteraction of the Post Office—the capital in the old savings banks of the cotton-manufacturing unions of Lancashire and Cheshire must have been at the latter date *three millions and three-quarters*.

THE LATE MRS. ANN CUTTO, of the Old Kent-road, has left the National Life-boat Institution a legacy of £1000, free of duty. At the present period, when the demands on the society are so heavy that it has just been compelled to sell out £500 from its small funded capital, this legacy will greatly strengthen the hands of the committee to carry out the national and philanthropic objects of the Life-boat Institution.

PRINCESS ALICE'S PHYSICIANS.—We learn that Dr. Arthur Farre is appointed, in conjunction with Sir G. Looock, to attend Princess Alice in her confinement, which is expected to take place next April. Dr. Arthur Farre has earned his reputation by study, hard work as a lecturer and clinical teacher, and by an immense experience amongst the patients of his hospital.

LIFE-BOAT SERVICES.—On Saturday afternoon, during a heavy ground-swell, the smack Countess of Lisburne, of Aberystwith, struck on Cardigan Bar. Immediately the smack's perilous position was seen, the Cardigan life-boat belonging to the National Life-boat Institution was launched. On reaching the vessel the surf was found to be tremendous, and enough to appal any man. The smack's boat had been lost, so that the poor creatures had no means of rescue if the life-boat failed to reach them. Their piercing cries for help, with death staring them in the face, were of the most heart-rending character. Fortunately the life-boat succeeded, with God's blessing, in closing with the wreck and in saving her crew of three men, and afterwards bringing them safely ashore through the heavy sea.

THE NEW HOTEL AT HASTINGS.

STANDING entirely apart from the watering-places to which cheap excursion-trains run during the summer months, Hastings has a popularity which, although of a quiet sort, is not the less decided and regenerative. Its delightful climate and the shelter of its protecting hills make it a pleasant retreat for invalids during the season when other seaside resorts are emptied of visitors. The beauty of the surrounding scenery and the many romantic localities which lie only a short distance from the town, invite a class of visitors willing to forego the fifth-rate amusements, which are the especial property of "more lively" holiday resorts, for the sake of quiet enjoyment of a more sedate and reasonable character.

Notwithstanding the success of this good old town, however, it has for some years been sadly deficient in accommodation for its frequenters; has succeeded, indeed, solely by virtue of its health-restoring climate and its natural advantages; and in spite of the many difficulties which it presented to visitors of moderate means, who were equally opposed to the enormous expense of a great hotel and the discomfort of hastily improvised lodgings.

During the last twenty years the population of Hastings has increased from 11,789 to 26,631, and yet the hotel accommodation has remained, if not stationary, at least in a condition which very inadequately provided for the increased number of guests, many of whom applied in vain at the doors of establishments which were already too full for comfort during the season.

The beauties of Fairlight, the Castle Hill, the Dripping Well, and the Lovers' Seat, however, were too well appreciated for the place to become unpopular. It was always full of admiring Londoners, seeking either health or pleasure; but its increased popularity became impossible. It will be remembered by those of our readers who are familiar with the old High-street of the town that beyond a narrow turning, leading amongst sundry wooden sheds and the debris of boats and bathing-machines, there lay, close above the sea, a large plot of waste ground. This was situated not far from the terrace which may be said to be the outlying salve of St. Leonards, and stood about 600 yards from the railway station. Upon this piece of waste ground there has been erected a splendid hotel, the completion of which was celebrated on Saturday. There is no hotel in England which, with a due regard to the economy of the visitor, better represents the comforts of an English dwelling, combined with those elegant and luxurious devices which form the charm of the great establishments of the Continent and the United States of America. The Queen's Hotel—for so it is named—has a principal front facing the sea, while from different parts of the building a great variety of views may be obtained. It is provided with a private entrance for families, and the ladies' coffee-room is one of the most elegant apartments ever devoted even to so worthy a purpose as to provide for the comfort of the lady visitors, without condemning them either to a solitary apartment or to the disorder of a common table. This splendid saloon is seventy feet long, and is divided by columns into four compartments, adorned with semicircular recesses. The entire room is lighted in the daytime by a succession of fine windows, those at the lower end facing the sea, and at night by four handsome crystal chandeliers, according admirably with the white and gold ornamentation, the green drapery and carpets, and the pillars and mantels of red marble. There are, in addition to this and the general coffee-room, twenty-five private sitting-rooms (some of them combined with a sleeping alcove in the French fashion), dining, smoking, billiard, and bath rooms. One feature of resemblance to the great American hotels exists in the bridal apartments which are, of course, the most beautifully appointed.

The whole of the furnishing has been intrusted to Messrs. Blythe and Sons, who have displayed through their manager (Mr. Cawley) a thorough appreciation of the necessary qualities to be most carefully ensured. The whole of the rooms, and especially the bed-rooms, are fitted with much judgment, the general effect produced being light and cheerful, while proper solidity and comfort are never lost sight of. The inhabitants of the locality in which the new hotel is situated have ample reason to congratulate themselves on this great improvement in their neighbourhood; while the success of the company which has started so useful an enterprise may be considered as already secured.

THE METROPOLITAN RAILWAY.—On Monday Colonel Yolland, the Government Inspector of Railways, officially inspected the whole length of this line. He was accompanied by a number of gentlemen interested in the undertaking, among whom were Mr. Fenton, Mr. Johnson, and several distinguished engineers, &c. The inspection commenced at the Paddington end of the railway, and occupied about four hours, during which time a train was made to the city terminus at Farringdon-street. The various signals and points were well tested and examined, and the train propelled backwards and forwards for this purpose at different rates of speed. During the progress of the train through the tunnel a gas jet was projected from the side of the guard's break-van, displaying every portion of the roof of the tunnel, and thus allowing a thorough examination of its condition. From the trials made it was evident that the line could be opened at once with perfect safety, but it is probable that the public opening will be deferred till the 1st of January next, as the directors now await the sanction of the Board of Trade, which, of course, depends upon Colonel Yolland's report.

THE DUKE OF MODENA'S ARMY.—The Emperor of Austria has prevailed on the Duke of Modena to disband his small body of troops, at the latest in the spring. A part of the soldiers will be received into the Austrian army and the others sent to their homes. The officers are already endeavouring to find employment, and those who do not succeed will receive half-pay from the Duke of Modena, none of them being willing to return home and serve in Italy. One of the numerous palaces which the Duke possesses in Venetia will be placed at their disposal for a residence.

THE ITALIAN PRESS.—A new semi-official journal is about to be established in Turin. It will start with a capital of 200,000f., and is to be of the same size as the *Perseveranza*. The name has not yet been decided upon. Rumour says that there is to be a fusion between the *Espresso* and the *Disegno*, and that the two papers, when united, will become the organ of Signor Ratazzi. A new journal at Florence is also spoken of, which is to bear the name of that city. Like the *Napoli* of Naples, it will be an organ of the reactionary party. Some of the former functionaries of the ex-Grand Duke are to be its political directors.

THE ENTHRONEMENT OF THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY.

THE SEE AND CATHEDRAL OF CANTERBURY.

ON Friday, the 12th inst., Dr. Longley, Archbishop of Canterbury, was duly inducted into the Primacy of All England. In earlier times this ceremony was conducted with a pomp and magnificence little inferior to that attending the coronation of our Sovereigns, and, although it is now shorn of much of its ancient splendour, it is still marked by a degree of state and formality not unbecoming so important an event as the succession to the chair of St. Augustine and the chief metropolitan see of the realm. This high and sacred office dates its origin as far back as the days of the Heptarchy, and the long and illustrious line by whom it has been held includes no fewer than ninety-one Archbishops, exclusive of the new Archbishop.

The ceremonial, of course, took place in Canterbury Cathedral, that cradle and centre of Anglo-Saxon Christianity, so rich in historical associations and so renowned for the chaste beauty and solemn grandeur of its architecture. Indeed, the annals of this venerable pile are so closely interwoven with our religious annals that its history may be said to be almost a perfect epitome of that of our national Church. Originally erected of wood, on the site of King Ethebert's palace, twice destroyed by fire, repeatedly ravaged by the Danes, rebuilt by the Norman Lanfranc of Caen stone in a style which made it henceforth the model and pattern for the rest of our cathedrals, extensively enlarged and gorgeously decorated from the offerings of the countless pilgrims who knelt at the shrine of A'Beckett, and, several centuries later, mutilated by the Iconoclastic zeal of the Puritans, this noble church still stands as an enduring monument of the combined piety, taste, and munificence of many bygone generations.

At Canterbury there has not existed for a long period any archiepiscopal residence, properly so called, the Archbishop being usually entertained by the Dean during his sojourn in the city, and, whether as the cause or the effect of this circumstance, the visits of the

Primate to the centre of his diocese became few and far between. Not only so, but the practice grew up of even enthroning the Primate by proxy. Before the installation of Archbishop Wake, in the eventful year 1718, the Metropolitans of the provinces of the church had for upwards of two centuries ceased to be installed in person, the Dean generally acting as their deputy at the ceremony. Archbishop Wake, who was enthroned in 1716, was the first Primate who underwent the ceremony in person, and Dr. Boulton revived the earlier usage.

THE CEREMONY.—THE PROCESSION.

The day appointed for the installation was beautifully fine. Ten o'clock was the hour fixed for throwing open the doors to those who were fortunate enough to obtain tickets, and shortly after that time the cathedral precincts were crowded with ticket-holders, of both sexes and all classes, eager to secure their places. The choir, in which the morning service was to be performed, was speedily filled, and the nave, along which the procession was to pass on entering by the western porch, was also lined with spectators. The brilliant sunshine streaming through the "storied windows, richly lighted," pointed on pillar, arch, tracery, and vaulted roof a radiance which, if it did not realise the poet's idea of "a dim religious light," at least enabled the vast assemblage to see the impressive spectacle to the best advantage.

At eleven o'clock the members of the cathedral body assembled in the cloisters, passing in by an avenue called the Dark Entry. There they formed a procession in the following order:—Schoolmasters, King's Scholars, Grammar Master of Choristers, Choristers, Lay Clerks, Minor Canons, the Auditor, and the Surveyors. At the same hour the Dean and Canons and the six Preachers met in the Auditorium, where the mandate for the enthronisation of the Archbishop was produced and read by Dr. Travers Twiss, the Vicar-General, who attended in his official robes. Thereupon the Ven. Archdeacon Harrison, acting as the deputy of the Ven. Archdeacon Croft (unavoidably absent through age and infirmity), decreed that the enthronisation should be at once proceeded with.

The Archbishop, accompanied by the Bishop of London (the Provincial Dean), the Bishop of Oxford, the Bishop of Rochester (the Provincial Chaplain), and the Bishop of Lincoln (the Provincial Chancellor), all in their episcopal vestments, was then conducted by the Dean and Canons and the six Preachers from the deanery to the cloisters, where they joined the procession, the six Preachers preceding the Canons, the attendant Bishops following, and the Archdeacon's deputy walking immediately before the Archbishop, who had the Dean on his right and the Vice-Dean on his left, and his Chaplains and officers attending him.

The clergy (several hundreds in number, in their clerical and academical costumes), having assembled in the Chapter House, then headed the procession, walking two and two, through the western porch of the cathedral, up the nave and the noble flight of steps leading to the choir doors, where they filed off to the right and left, and formed a lane along which the Primate and his retinue were to pass.

Next came the choristers, who, as they advanced through the cloisters to the west door, began to chant Psalms cxxi. and cxxii., beginning respectively with the words, "Lift thine eyes to the mountains, whence cometh help," and "I was glad when they said unto me, We will go into the house of the Lord." At first the voices of the singers were heard faintly in the distance, their notes gradually swelling as they approached the porch. On their entering the nave the full harmony burst upon the ear, and was continued until they reached the grand staircase of the choir. The effect of this sweet and solemn music was particularly fine. The Archbishop and his retinue of suffragans and cathedral clergy followed, walking slowly up the nave and through the choir in the order above described, and were then conducted to the altar. Here his Grace took up his position on the north side, with the Bishop of Oxford on his right hand and the Bishop of London on his left, the Bishops of Lincoln and Rochester being also stationed within the altar-rails. The general body of the clergy were seated upon the altar-steps. While all were taking their prescribed places within the choir and chancel the splendid Hallelujah Chorus of Handel was sung by the choristers, with the rich, sonorous accompaniment of the organ.

THE INDUCTION.

The last note of this majestic creation of the great master having died away, the Dean, the Vice-Dean, and the Archdeacon's deputy proceeded to their stalls, and a full choral morning service then commenced. The first lesson of the day, the 37th chapter of Isaiah, was read by Minor Canon Hirst, and the second lesson, Acts, xii., by the Dean. At the end of the first lesson the Archdeacon's deputy went down from his stall and conducted the Archbishop, attended by the Dean and Vice-Dean, to the archiepiscopal throne, a handsome structure of exquisitely-carved stone, situated at the upper end of the South side of the choir. The Vicar-General then presented to the Archdeacon's deputy the mandate of enthronisation, and requested him to proceed. Whilst this document was being read by the auditor the four attendant Bishops remained standing before the altar, and the capitular clergy stood grouped round the archiepiscopal throne. The Archdeacon's deputy then read the form of induction as follows:—

I, Benjamin Harrison, acting as deputy for James Croft, Master of Arts, Archdeacon of Canterbury, do induct, install, and enthrone you, the Most Reverend Father in God, Charles Thomas Longley, Doctor in Divinity, Lord Archbishop of Canterbury, into the archiepiscopal and archiepiscopal Dignity of the See of Canterbury, into the real, actual, and corporal possession of the same, with all and singular the rights, dignities, honours, pre-eminences, and appurtenances thereof, and the Lord preserve your going out and your coming in, from this time forth for evermore. Amen.

The Archbishop remaining on his throne, and the capitular clergy having returned to their stalls, the service was resumed with the "Benedicite." The anthem "Blow ye the trumpet," by Leslie, was magnificently rendered by the choir, and the Litany was intoned by Precentor Stratton and Minor Canon Hake.

THE CHAIR OF ST. AUGUSTINE.

The Archdeacon's deputy, with the four suffragan Bishops present and the Dean and Vice-Dean of the cathedral, then escorted the Archbishop to the metropolitan chair in the south transept, between the altar and the Chapel of the Holy Trinity. This antique seat, which is called the chair of St. Augustine, is composed of grey marble, in three pieces, carved in panels, and rises in a solid mass from the pavement. In the placing of the newly-elected Primate in this venerable chair consists the principal solemnity of the enthronement, as it puts the occupant in formal possession of the metropolitan dignity, authority, and emoluments. Having been seated here, the Archdeacon's deputy again pronounced the form of induction in terms similar to those given above.

THE DEAN'S STALL.

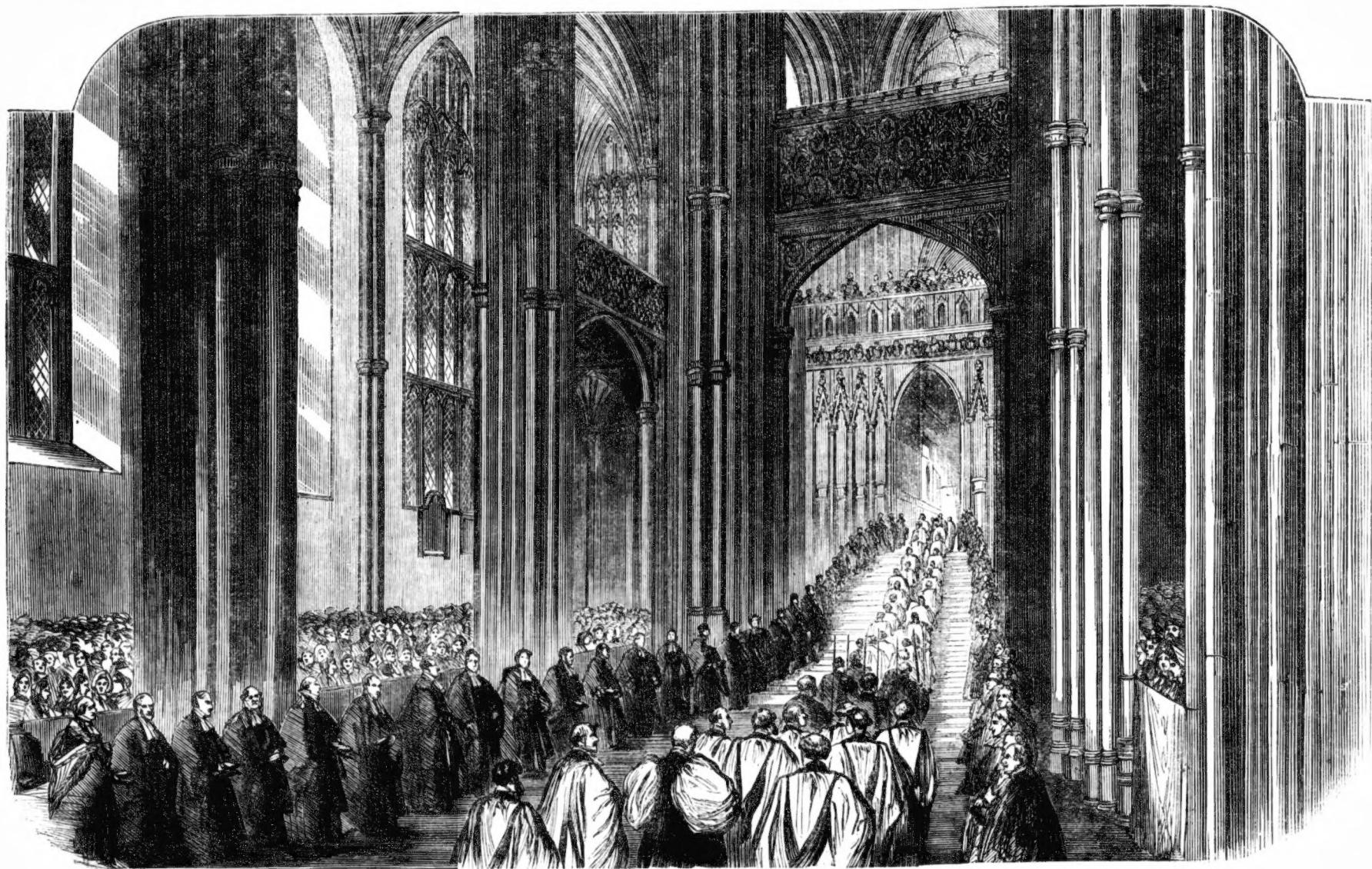
This ended, Archdeacon Harrison conducted the Archbishop, attended by the Dean and Vice-Dean, to the dean's stall, near the entrance of the choir, and, his Grace being seated there, the Venerable Archdeacon said:—

I, Archdeacon Harrison, acting as deputy for James Croft, Master of Arts, Archdeacon of Canterbury, place you, Charles Thomas Longley, Doctor in Divinity, in this stall or seat, in sign and token of your taking and having real and actual possession of the See of Canterbury, and of all the rights and privileges thereof.

The Archbishop then remained in the dean's stall, and the Archdeacon's deputy returned to his own, while the "Te Deum" (King's, in D) was sung with thrilling power. The Dean next read the suffrages, the choir chanting the responses. After the suffrages the Dean read a prayer, and the Archbishop, in a clear and emphatic tone, more audible than any other voice raised in the whole course of the ceremonial, pronounced the Apostolical benediction upon the assemblage from the dean's stall, and the morning service concluded.

PROCEEDINGS IN THE CHAPTER HOUSE.

The choristers, lay clerks, minor canons, six preachers, &c., who composed the foremost part of the original procession, now re-formed, and, leaving the choir by the north door, proceeded by the north aisle and the Martyrdom to the Chapter House, whither the Archbishop followed them, escorted by the leading members of the capitular



THE ENTHRONEMENT OF THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY.—THE PROCESSION PASSING ALONG THE NAVE OF CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL.

body. Here his Grace was placed in the chief seat by Archdeacon Harrison, who said:—

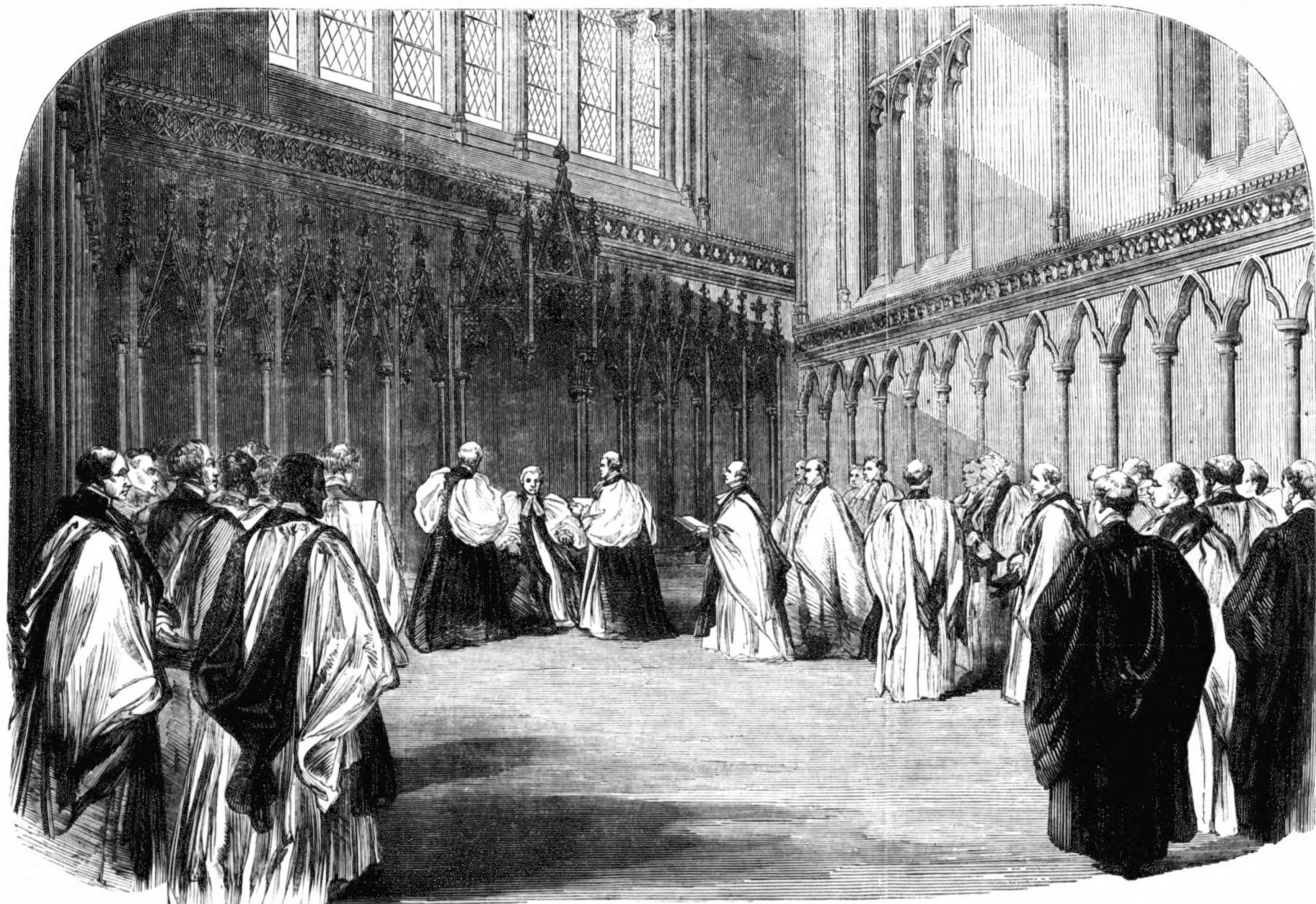
I, Benjamin Harrison, acting as a deputy for James Croft, Archdeacon of Canterbury, assign and appoint this seat to you, as Lord Archbishop of Canterbury. The Archdeacon administered to his Grace the usual oath, binding him to maintain the rights and liberties of the Church and to

enforce the laws and customs thereof. The next formality was the taking of the vow of canonical obedience to their new Metropolitan on the part of the greater and minor clergy, &c., the formula being:—

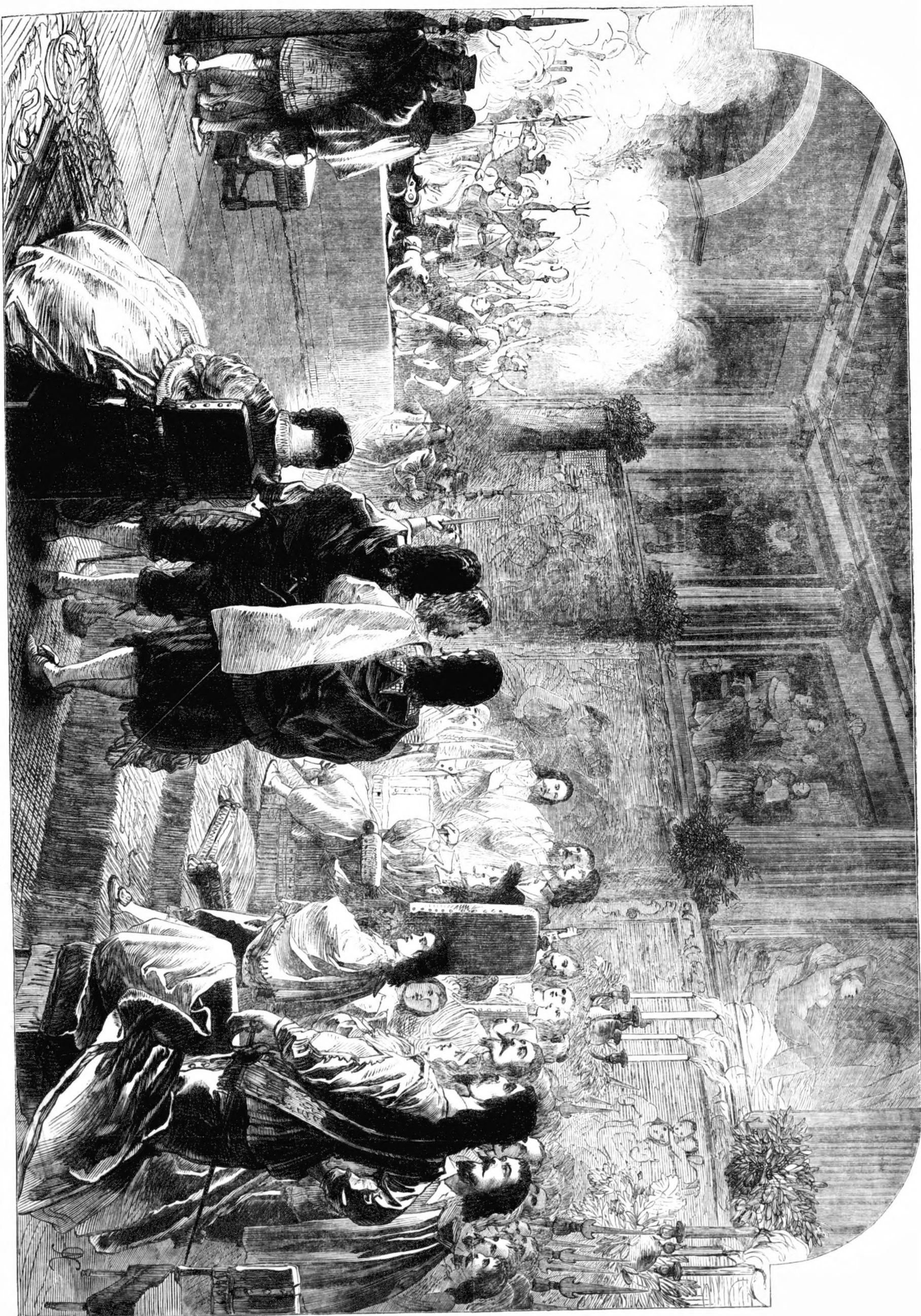
I, Benjamin Harrison, acting as deputy for James Croft, Archdeacon, and Canon of this church, do promise to pay canonical obedience to your Grace, Lord Archbishop of Canterbury, as my Diocesan and Archbishop.

The rest of the cathedral clergy and other officers having given a similar promise, an "act" of the proceedings was produced and duly signed, with the attestation of a notary public; after which the assembly was dismissed by the Dean.

At the close of the imposing ceremonial, the Archbishop, the attendant Bishops, and the higher clergy returned to the deanery.



THE CLERGY TAKING THE VOW OF CANONICAL OBEDIENCE TO THE NEW ARCHBISHOP IN THE CHAPTER HOUSE.

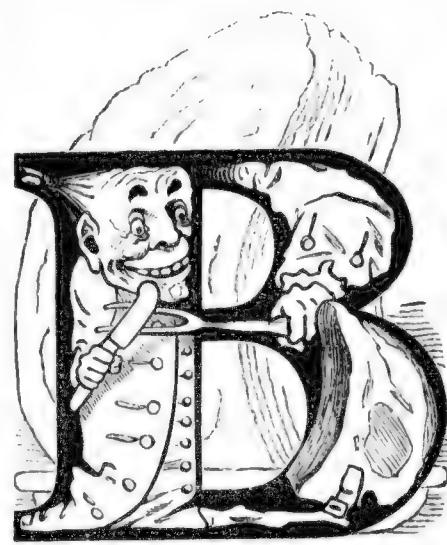


A LIVE ALPHABET

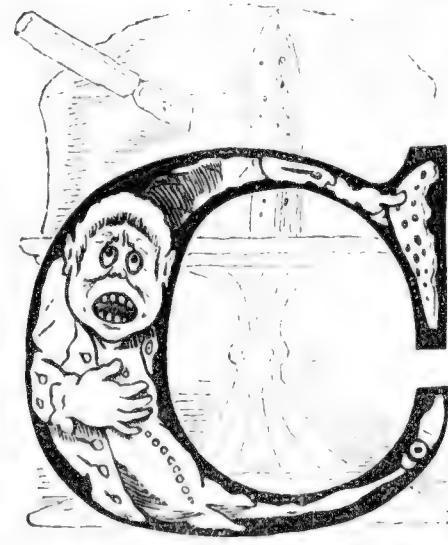
DESIGNED AND DRAWN



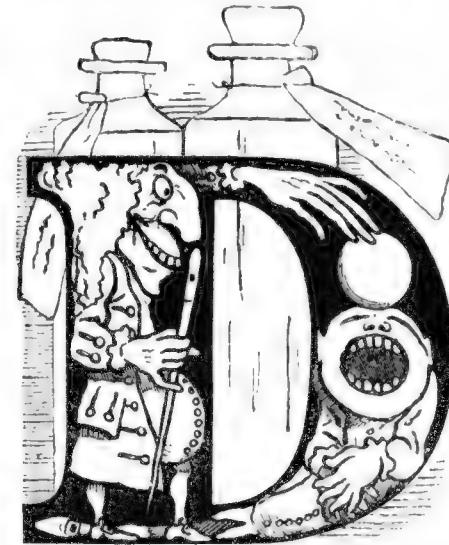
is old ALE, may he never grow thinner.



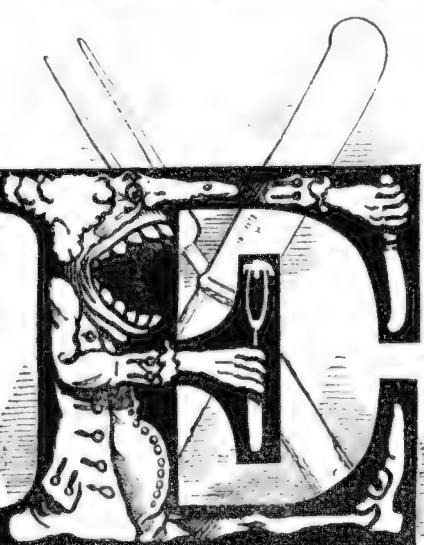
is roast BEEF, we all had for our dinner.



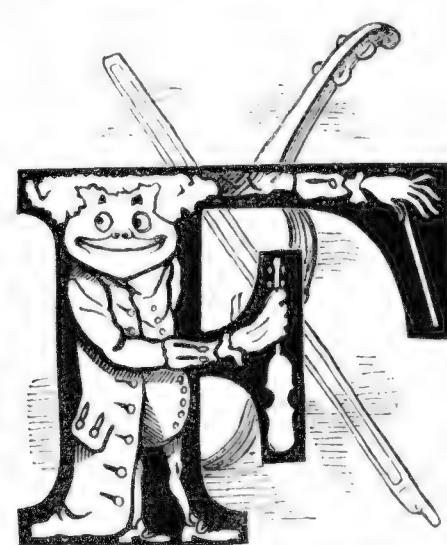
is plum CAKE, that made Jacky so ill.



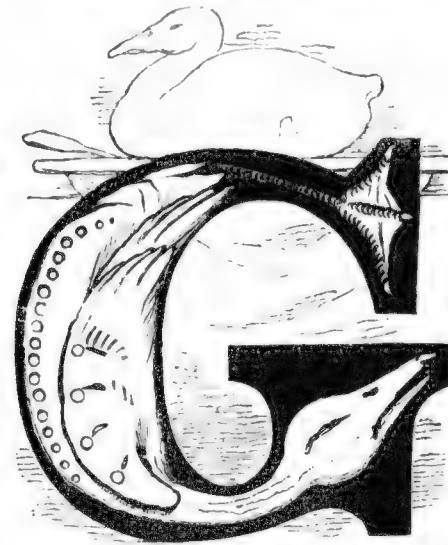
is the DOCTOR, who brought him a pill.



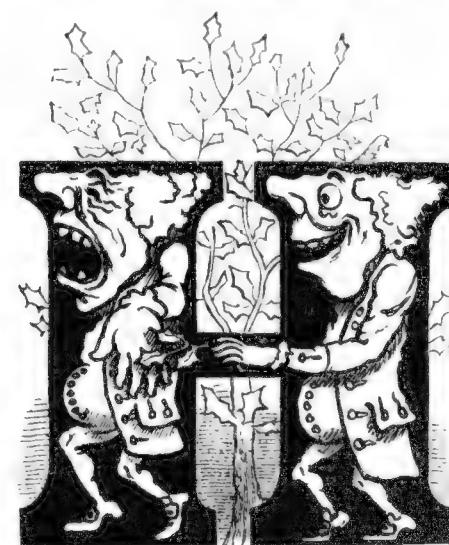
stands for EATING, the whole of the day.



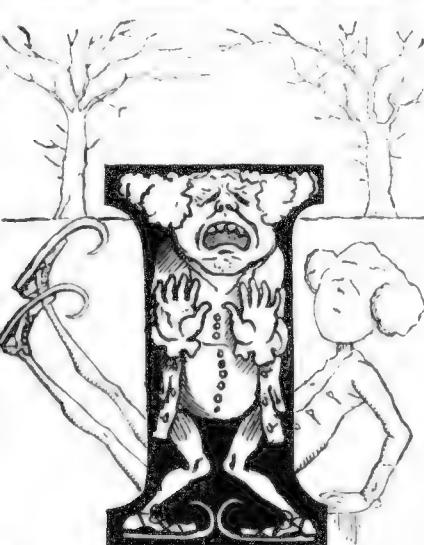
for the FIDDLE, that Bobby can play.



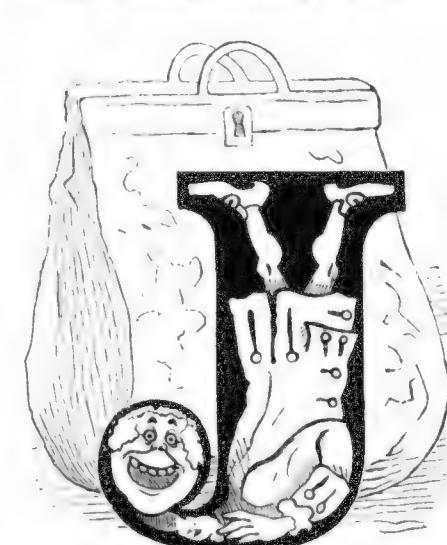
is the GOOSE, a silly young fellow.



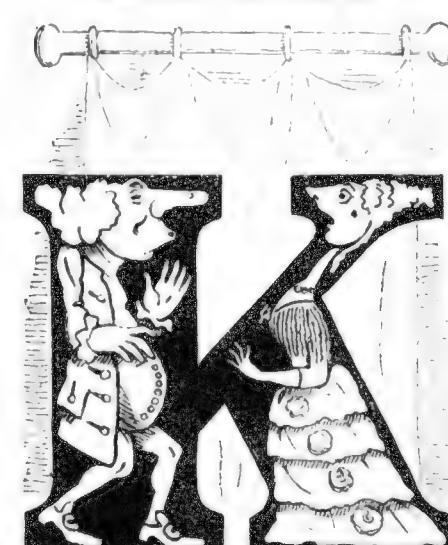
the sharp HOLLY, that made Harry hollow.



the smooth ICE, where Bill tumbled down.



stands for JOHN, who has come fresh from town.



are sweet KISSES, but not to be seen.



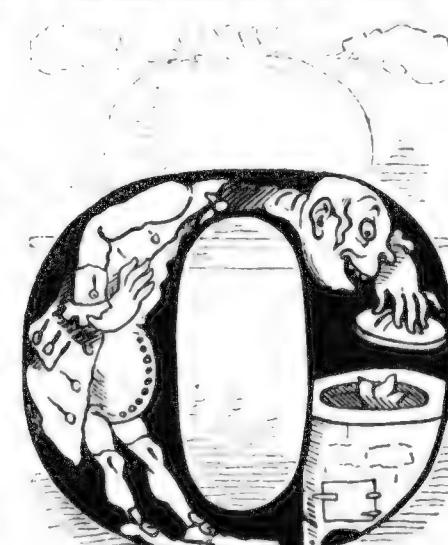
the young LADY, in new crinoline.



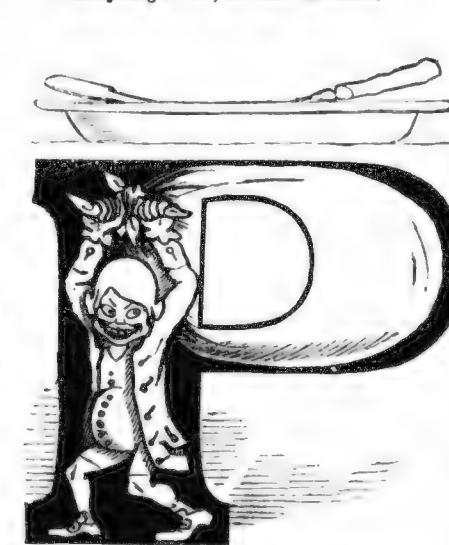
the MISTLETOE, hung overhead.



the fat NURSE, who puts children to bed.



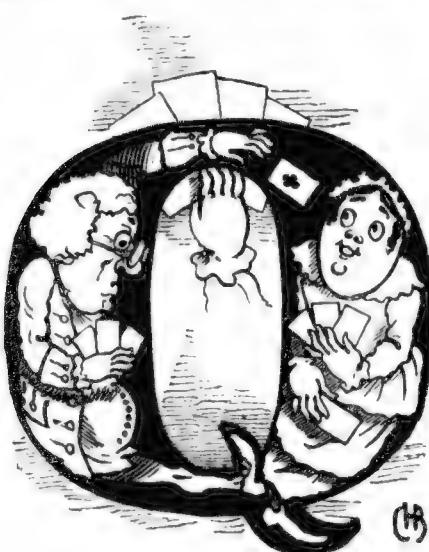
is the ORPHAN, a casual indropper.



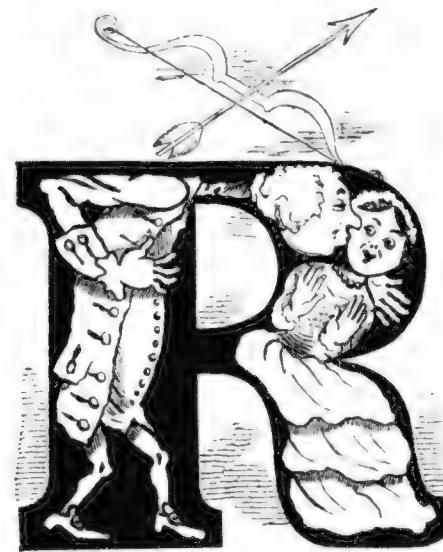
is the PUDDING, he stole from the copper.

OF CHRISTMAS FUN

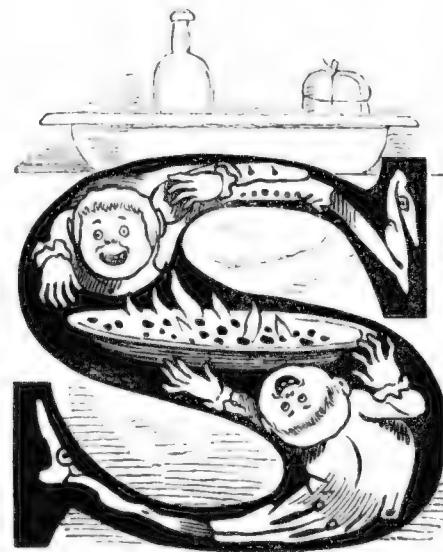
BY C. H. BENNETT.



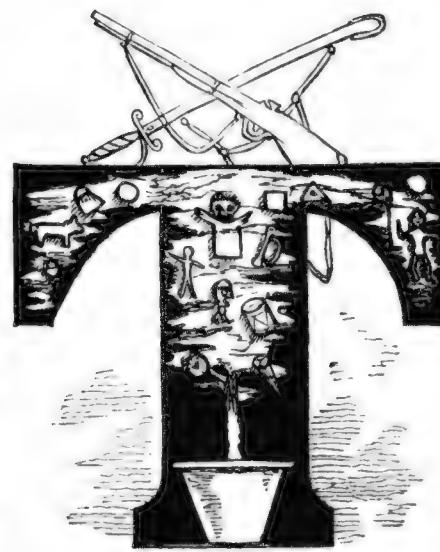
are QUEER people, who sit down to whist.



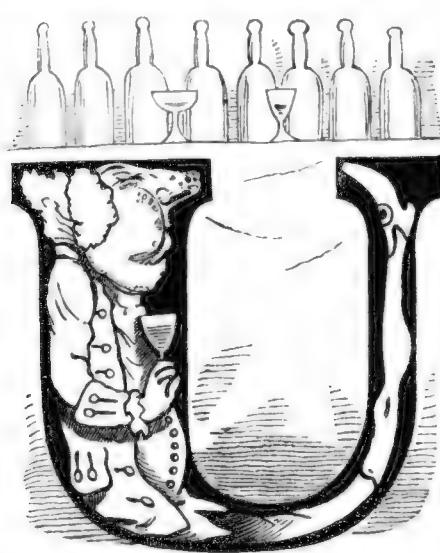
is a ROMP, when the girls are all kissed.



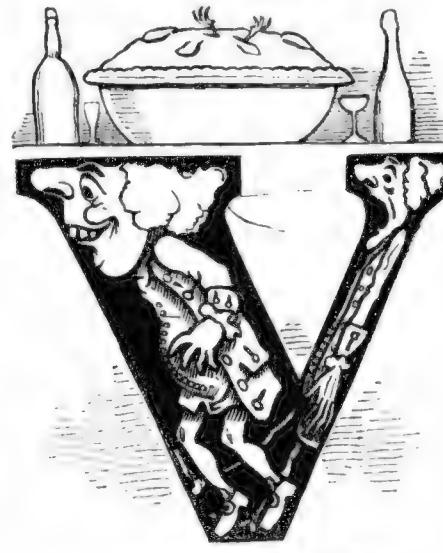
is SNAPDRAGON, the best of the fun.



are the Toys, for every one.



is our UNCLE, who couldn't get up.



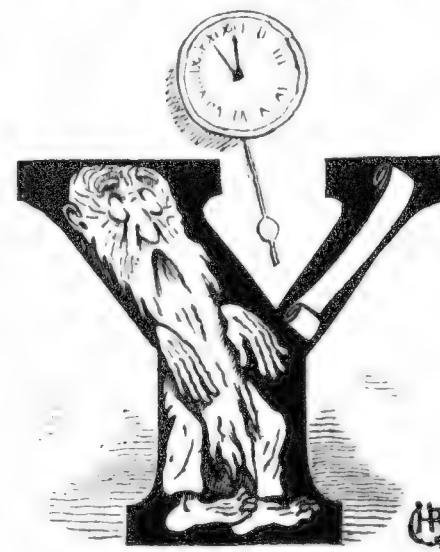
are the VISITORS, going to sup.



the WALKERS, returning at night.



is X 31, seeing all right.



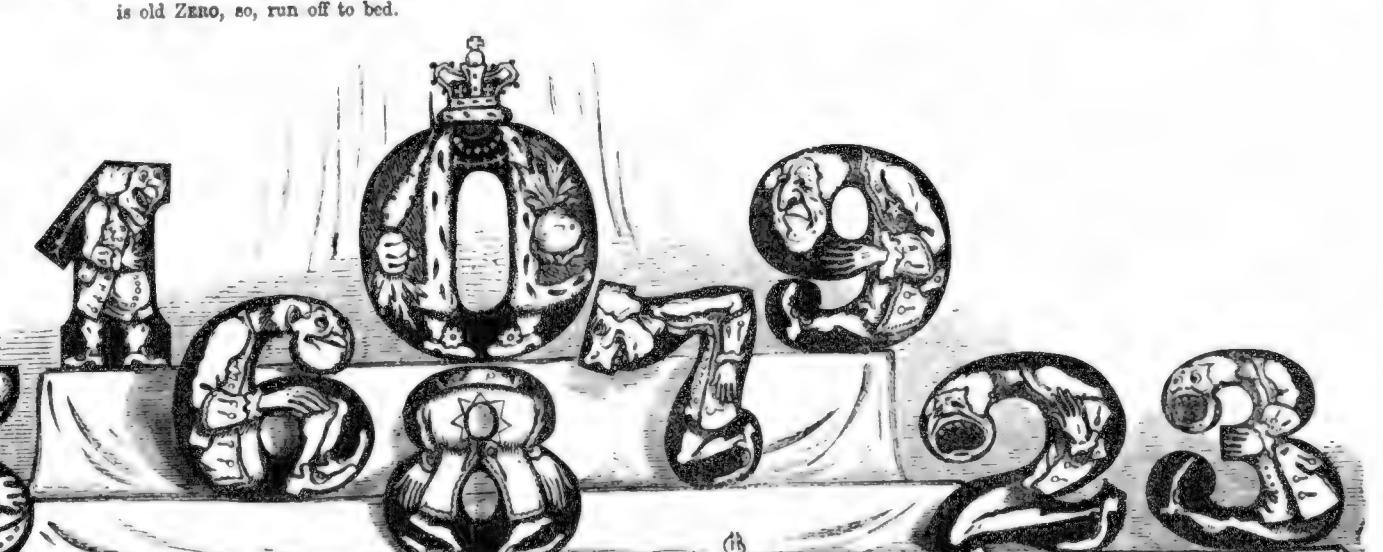
is the YEAR, which is very near dead.



is old ZERO, so, run off to bed.



is the YEAR, which is very near dead.



THE COURT OF KING OUGHT.

CHAPPELL AND CO.'S PIANOFORTES AND HARMONIUMS.

50, NEW BOND-STREET.

CHAPPELL and CO.'S NEW ROOMS contain Pianofortes by every celebrated maker, and form a collection unequalled by that of any other Establishment.

The Instruments are classified in the following manner:—

Room No. 1.—Pianofortes of every description, from Ten to Thirty-five guineas.

Room No. 2.—Pianofortes from Thirty-five to Sixty guineas.

Room No. 3.—Pianofortes from Sixty to One Hundred guineas and upwards; also, Harmoniums of the best kinds.

Room No. 4.—Harmoniums of every description, from Six to Sixty guineas and upwards.

Rooms Nos. 5, 6, 7, and 8 are appropriated to Pianofortes and Harmoniums for Hire.

Purchasers have thus the opportunity of having, side by side, Pianofortes by every recognized maker, and of forming a fair and correct judgment of the various merits that can possibly be obtained from the different factories, the acoustic properties of which never quite differ greatly, and frequently deceive the ear even of the most artistic.

The superiority of tone of Alexandre's Harmoniums is too well established to need any comment; but, besides the Prize Medal, the Jury award was accorded to them for "novelty of construction of Harmoniums, cheapness, combined with excellence of manufacture and fine quality of tone."

An immense assortment may be seen suitable to the Schoolroom, Church, or Drawing-room, ranging in price from Five to One Hundred Guineas.

Any instrument may be exchanged within six months of the date of purchase should it fail to give entire satisfaction.

A perfectly new Pianoforte or Harmonium may be hired, if taken for twelve months certain.

CHAPPELL and CO.'S TEN-GUINEA PIANOFORTE.—This instrument has a compass of Four Octaves, sufficient for accompanying the voice, the study of composition, the practice and performance of exercises, and such classical pieces as Bach's Preludes and fugues.

THE ALEXANDRE SERAPHINA ANGELICA.—This charming little instrument is played with one hand by means of a key-board, like the Harmonium, and has a compass of Three Octaves, including the semitones. It can be rested on the knees or on a table, the wind being supplied by the left hand; or it can be played with both hands, and the wind supplied by the foot, with the assistance of the new Patent Box. Price £5 15s.; with the Patent Box, £5 15s. 6d.

CHAPPELL'S FOREIGN PIANINO.—A very elegant Pianoforte, of small size, but with the full compass, check action, and perfect touch, admirably adapted to small rooms, yachts, boudoirs, &c. Excellent for keeping in tune, and the cheapest Pianoforte with check action yet made. Price 25 guineas in mahogany, 26 guineas in rosewood or walnut; ditto, with ornamental feet, 27 guineas. Height, 3ft. 4in.

CHAPPELL'S ENGLISH MODEL COTTAGE PIANOFORTE.—To amateurs preferring the pure English tone of the Broadwood and Collard quality, the English Model will be found the most perfectly satisfactory instrument at a moderate price. The action is of the same simple description as the above makers', and therefore especially adapted to the country, where the more complicated actions are objectionable to the tuners. In elegant rosewood case, with full fret, similar all respects to other instruments at 50 guineas, price 35 guineas; in best walnut (similar to other 60-guinea instruments), 40 guineas.

CHAPPELL'S FOREIGN MODEL PIANOFORTE, price 50 guineas in rosewood; or in walnut, 60 guineas. This instrument has Three Strings and the fullest grand compass of Seven Octaves. It is strengthened by every possible means to endure the greatest amount of wear, and to stand perfectly in any climate. The Pianoforte is the equal of the best made to the English standard, and the equal of the best to that of a Biograph Grand. The touch is classic, and the repetition very rapid. No Pianoforte, in all respects comparable, has hitherto been made in England at the same price. Every instrument will be warranted, and (if desired) exchanged within six months of the purchase.

SECONDHAND PIANOFORTES and HARMONIUMS.—ALEXANDRE HARMONIUMS, and PIANOFORTES of every description, nearly as good as new, at greatly reduced prices. Secondhand Instruments of every description, and in great variety, by Broadwood, Collard, Erard, Chappell, Kirkman, &c.

ALEXANDRE DRAWING-ROOM HARMONIUMS.—

No. 1. Three stops, percussion action, additional blower, and in rosewood case. Price 25 guineas.

No. 2. Eight stops, percussion action, additional blower, and in rosewood case. Price 35 guineas.

No. 3. Sixteen stops, percussion action, additional blower, vox celeste, &c. Price 60 guineas.

CHAPPELL'S ORIENTAL MODEL PIANOFORTES.

No. 1. Size, 4ft. 3in. by 2ft. 1in.; height, 3ft. 10in. Compass, 6½ oct. C to A. Net case, with square fall. Price 35 guineas.

No. 2. Size, 4ft. 4in. by 2ft. 3in.; height, 4ft. Compass, 6½ oct. C to A. Height, 4ft. 2in. Price 45 guineas, net cash.

The above Instruments are thoroughly secured, and are constructed of solid mahogany. They are of such excellent manufacture throughout, that they are confidently recommended as being admirably adapted for INDIA and for the EASTERN EMPIRE generally.

The price includes (1) packing-cases of the wood; (2) a suitable tuning hammer or key; (3) a tuning-fork; (4) some additional strings; (5) a Book on Tuning and Preserving the Instrument; (6) and the carriage to the docks.

NEW FIVE-GUINEA HARMONIUM, by ALEXANDRE, the best of all makers. In oak case, with a compass of four octaves. Perfect for the cottage, school, or choir. Price Five Guineas.

NEW SIX-GUINEA HARMONIUM by ALEXANDRE, with five octaves, two footboards, and in oak case. These instruments are lower in price, and superior to all other cheap harmoniums. Descriptive Lists on application to CHAPPELL and CO., 50, New Bond-street.

NEW DESCRIPTIVE LISTS (Illustrated) of Pianofortes and Harmoniums will be sent on application to CHAPPELL and CO., 50, New Bond-street.

TO MERCHANTS, SHIPPERS, AND RESIDENTS ABROAD.

CHAPPELL and CO., 50, NEW BOND-STREET, are prepared to supply purchasers in any part of the world, with the best MUSIC of every description, in large or small quantities, on the most favourable terms; also PIANOFORTES, from 25 to 50 guineas; and HARMONIUMS, varying in price from 5 to 100 guineas, all of the best manufacture, and selected from their stock, which is now the largest in London. Catalogues of Music or of Instruments will be forwarded (free) on application to Chappell and Co., 50, New Bond-street, London.

ALEXANDRE'S PRIZE EXHIBITION MODEL HARMONIUMS.

NO. 1.—FOR THE CHURCH. With Thirteen Stops, Four Rows of Vibrators; with the addition of one more Venetian Swell, worked by the heel of the right foot, by which means a crescendo can be produced without the use of the Expression Stop. Oak Case. Price, 33 Guineas; or without the Swell, 30 Guineas.

NO. 2.—FOR THE DRAWING-ROOM.

In Handsome Rosewood Case, with Percussion Action and Fourteen Stops. This instrument, finished in a style superior to any other kind, the whole of the interior mechanism being French polished, and consequently more calculated to withstand the effects of dust and damp. It has a Venetian Swell worked by the heel, thus doing away with the knee Pedals, which are sometimes objected to by Ladies. Price 60 guineas.

No. 2 is especially recommended for abroad, as less liable than any other Model to get out of order.

ANTOINE COURTOIS' CORNETS.—PISTONS.—are used by all the most celebrated performers of the day, and obtained a Prize Medal at the Great Exhibition, 1862.

PRICES: 1. Konig's Model Cornet, with Water Slide £ 8 8 0 2. Konig's Model Cornet, with Double Water Key 8 8 0 3. Konig's Model Cornet, of the New Metal (Imitation of Gold) 13 13 0 4. Solid Silver Cornet, with Water Key 45 0 0

NEW CHURCH HARMONIUMS, with two rows of keys, by ALEXANDRE.

No. 1, with double key-board, 8 stops, and 3½ rows of vibrators, in Rosewood, price 45 guineas.

No. 2, with double key-board, 22 stops, and 6 rows of vibrators, in Rosewood or polished oak case, price 70 guineas.

No. 1, with 24 octaves of German Pedals, 65 guineas.

No. 2, with 32 octaves of German Pedals, 90 guineas.

These instruments surpass all others for church purposes, and are equally adapted to the organist's use in a drawing-room. Testimonials to the great superiority of the Alexandre Harmoniums from Professors Sterndale Bennett and Sir Gore Ouseley; also from Dr. Kimball, Mr. Goss, Mr. Turle, Herr Engel, and the most eminent professors and organists, with full descriptive Lists, will be forwarded on application to CHAPPELL and CO., 50, New Bond-street.

CHAPPELL AND CO.'S NEW MUSICAL PUBLICATIONS.

CATALOGUES POST-FREE ON APPLICATION.

D'ALBERT'S CELEBRATED DANCE MUSIC. Arranged for Full Orchestra, price 3s.; Small Orchestra, 2s.; for Pianoforte, Solo or Duet, prices 3s. and 4s.

ORCHESTRAL PARTS.

No. 1. Heidelberg Quadrille	No. 20. The Peri Waltzes
2. The Pucha, ditto	21. Lucrezia Borgia Quadrille
3. Helena Polka	22. The Sardinian Polka
4. Queen of the Ball Waltzes	23. Geneva Quadrille
5. Normandie Quadrille	24. Sonnambula Quadrille
6. Coquette Polka	25. The War Galop
7. Emmeline Waltzes	26. The Camp Polka
8. Margarita, ditto	27. Bonaparte Quadrille
9. Naples Quadrille	28. The Peacock Galop
10. The Jupon, &c.	29. The Mountain Daisy Waltz
11. The Lancer Quadrille	30. The Circassian Polka
12. Star of the Night Waltz	31. The Scotch, ditto
13. The Isabell Polka	32. New Lancers Quadrilles
14. The Laughing ditto	33. La Traviata Quadrille
15. The Kosuth ditto	34. La Traviata Valse
16. The Bride's ditto	35. Bobbing Around Quadrille
17. The Grenada Quadrille	36. St. Petersburg Quadrille
18. Fairiest of the Fair Waltz	37. The Soldiers' Polka
19. La Favorita Quadrille	38. The Court of St. James's Quadrille
20. Schottisch Quadrille	39. The Queen's Waltz
21. The New Schottisch	40. The French Galop
22. Reine des Quadrilles	41. The French Polka
23. Queen Redowa	42. Il Trovatore Quadrille
24. The Rose Polka	43. The Leviathan Galop
25. The Queen's Galop	44. Venice Quadrille
26. Princess Royal Waltzes	45. Il Giuramento Quadrille
27. Cherbourg Quadrille	46. The Persian Polka
28. The Faust Waltzes	47. The Wedding Quadrille
29. Edinburgh Quadrille	48. Violante Valse
30. The New Schottisch	49. Marino Faliero Quadrille
31. Reine des Quadrilles	50. Big Ben Polka
32. The Dew-drop Waltz	51. The English Polka
33. Exposition Quadrille	52. The Devil's Polka
34. The Garland Polka	53. The Devil's Waltz
35. Crystal Palace Waltzes	54. Marcha Valse
36. The Sonora Polka	55. Reigning Beauty Valse
37. The Tonante Galop	56. Macbeth Valse (Verdi)
38. The Linnet Polka	57. Macbeth ditto (Verdi)
39. The Lightning Galop	58. Submarine Galop
40. The Ireland Quadrille	59. Zurich Quadrille
41. The Queen of Roses Waltzes	60. Charlot Quadrille
42. L'Enfant Polka	61. Garibaldi Galop
43. The Dew-drop Waltz	62. Zürich Quadrille
44. The Exposition Quadrille	63. Rosalie Valse
45. The Garland Polka	64. Reigning Beauty Valse
46. Crystal Palace Waltzes	65. Macbeth Valse (Verdi)
47. The Review Polka	66. Macbeth ditto (Verdi)
48. Genevieve Quadrille	67. Nelly Gray Waltz
49. The Redalinda Waltzes	68. Kathleen Mavornean Valse
50. Nymphe of the Wave Waltzes	69. The Devil's Waltz
51. The England Quadrille	70. Rosalie Valse
52. The Topey Quadrille	71. Reigning Beauty Valse
53. The Flower of the Field Waltzes	72. Macbeth Valse (Verdi)
54. The Invitation Polka	73. Nelly Gray Waltz
55. The Camerons Quadrille	74. Macbeth ditto (Verdi)
56. Le Chant d'Amour Waltzes	75. Nelly Gray Waltz
57. Lago Maggiore Quadrille	76. Macbeth ditto (Verdi)
58. The Etna Galop	77. Macbeth ditto (Verdi)
59. Fair Star Waltzes	78. Macbeth ditto (Verdi)
60. The Queen of the Ball	79. Macbeth ditto (Verdi)
61. The Overland Mail Galop	80. Macbeth ditto (Verdi)
62. Constantine Quadrille	81. Sultan's Polka
63. The Sultan's Polka	82. Queen Topaze Quadrille
64. George Waltzes	83. Ditto Polka
65. Bo-Peep Quadrilles	84. Robin Hood Quadrille
66. Sebastian Quadrille	85. Ditto Valse
67. Bonnmarie Quadrille	86. International Quadrille
68. The Palermo Quadrille	87. International Valse
69. Lily of the Valley Waltzes	88. Grand Quadrille

CHAPPELL'S MUSICAL MAGAZINE OF VOCAL AND PIANOFORTE MUSIC, in SHILLING NUMBERS. Post-free, 1s. 2d.; or three for 3s. 4d.

No. 45. 100 Scotch Melodies, arranged for the Pianoforte (just published).

No. 42. 100 Irish Melodies, arranged for the Pianoforte. 1s.

No. 43. Fifty Operas, Alibis, and other pieces for the Pianoforte. 1s.

No. 44. Sixty Melodies, arranged for the Pianoforte. 1s.

No. 45. Christy Minstrel Song-Book, a new Selection. 1s.

No. 46. A Fashionable Dance-Book for the Pianoforte. 1s.

No. 47. Twenty-one Dances, for Pianoforte, Reels, Jigs, &c., for Pianoforte. 1s.

No. 48. Christy and Buckley Minstrel Airs for Pianoforte (without words). 1s.

No. 49. Christy and Buckley Minstrel's Songs, Second Series. 1s.

No. 50. A Christmas Album of Dance Music. 1s.

No. 51. The Juvenile Vocal Album. 1s.

No. 52. Beethoven's Sonatas, edited by Charles Hallé (No. 1). 1s.

No. 53. Beethoven's Sonatas, edited by Charles Hallé (No. 2). 1s.

No. 54. Beethoven's Sonatas, edited by Charles Hallé (No. 3). 1s.

No. 55. Five Sets of Quadrilles, as Dances, by Charles D'Albert, &c. 1s.

No. 56. Sime Revere's most Popular Songs, 1s.

No. 57. Thirteen Popular Songs by Barker, Linley, &c. 1s.

No. 58. Twenty-one Juvenile Pieces for the Pianoforte. 1s.

No. 59. The King Pippin Polka. 1s.

No. 60. Sicilian Bride Quadrille. 1s.

No. 61. Bonnmarie Quadrille. 1s.

No. 62. Eighteen of Moon's Irish Melodies. 1s.

No. 63. Ten Songs by Schubert, English and German Words. 1s.

No. 64. Twelve Popular Songs, for Soprano and Contralto Voices. 1s.

No. 65. Five Poems by Ascher and Gorla. 1s.

No. 66. Six Pianoforte Pieces by Charles Hallé (No. 1). 1s.

No. 67. Nine Pianoforte Pieces by Charles Hallé (No. 2). 1s.

No. 68. Fifty Valses by Charles D'Albert, Strauss, &c. 1s.

No. 69. Ten Sets of Quadrilles by Charles D'Albert, &c. complete, 1s.

No. 70. Twelve Sacred Songs by Italian Composers. 1s.

No. 71. Ten Songs by Wagner, 1s.

No. 72. Ten Songs by M. W. Laff, 1s.

No. 73. Ten Songs by M. W. Laff, 1s.

No. 74. All the Songs have a Pianoforte Accompaniment.

CHAPPELL'S CHRISTY MINSTREL ALBUM for the PIANOFORTE (without words), containing 50 of these celebrated Melodies, including all the newest. Price 1s.; or in cloth, with gilt edges. 2s. Post-free, 1s. 2d. or 2s. 2d.

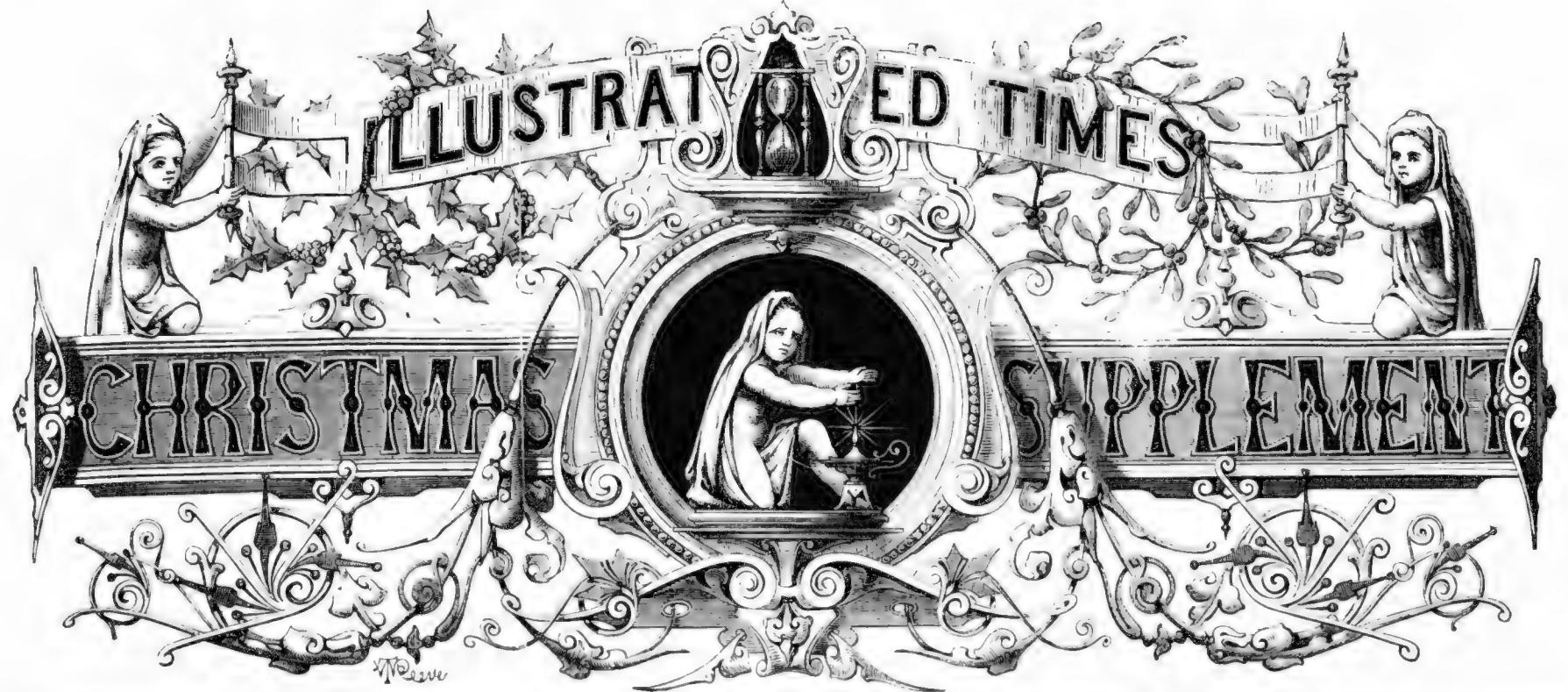
CHAPPELL'S STANDARD DANCE-BOOK, consisting of 72 Country Dances, Hornpipes, Reels, Jigs, &c., newly arranged for the Pianoforte. Price 1s.; or in cloth, with gilt edges. 2s. Post-free, 1s. 2d. or 2s. 2d.

THE LILY OF KILLARNEY. BERNARD'S ROMANTIC OPERA.

The One Act, complete, bound in cloth. 2s.

POPULAR PIANOFORTE ARRANGEMENTS.

CHAPPELL'S VOCAL CHRISTY MINSTREL ALBUM: an entirely new selection of these Popular Songs, with all the Choruses and Pianoforte Accompaniments. Price 1s.; or in



VOL. 1.

LONDON, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1862.



1862
AFTER DINNER: A CHRISTMAS INCIDENT IN THE OLDEN TIME (DRAWN BY J. A. PASQUIER)

AFTER DINNER: AN UNWELCOME VISITOR.

Who that has fallen gently into an after-dinner doze does not resent as a personal affront a rude and sudden awaking, even by a friendly hand? Lulled by the comfortable consciousness of plenitude, in the full enjoyment of that exquisite transition-state in which we seem just to hover upon the borders of dreamland, with no claim upon the attention beyond such disconnected musings as easily shape the navel into light, untroubled fancies, the interruption of an unwelcome visitor—the car less disturbance of an unsympathising guest—the sudden question of some trivial subject, become real injuries, which call for immediate and severe resentment. The advent of the unwelcome visitor is perhaps the worse, since it must be immediately followed by such a violent effort of self-control as seriously impairs the digestion and effectually ruins the temper.

Our Engraving represents this calamity under circumstances in the last degree distressing, since the intruder is prepared not only to dispel the effect of the ample cheer, but to condemn the cheer itself. The nervous anxiety of the slumbering lover's fair companion exhibits her dread, not only of a long homily, but of after consequences from the scrupulous memory of Mr. Zeal in the Land Busy, who is in the habit of making domiciliary visits unannounced.

That good old kitchen has resounded for more than a century with the preparations for good cheer at every recurring Christmase. The very picture—portrait of some ancient retainer—seems to look askance upon the sour sectarian who would strike the voice of feasting dumb; and the disorder of flagon, jar, and trencher tell that the old custom yet survives in spite of the efforts of the saints. The mistletoe hangs yet to the beam, and doubtless its virtues have been already tested. 'Tis a pity that the fair serving-maid's jealousy for her lover's character should lead her to wake him, for the empty flask which was enough for good humour, is likely to heat young blood, and the chances are that there will be hot words, which may be repeated to the "roysterer's" disadvantage. There will be no love lost between the men, even though the prying eye of Zed in the Land may wander with a concealed interest in the direction of the other sleeper by the window. There will be little sympathy on his part for Christmas revels either, for he is of those who will be long in order the day to be kept as a fast, in which all men may humbly bewail the great national sin which they and their fathers have so often committed by romping under the kissing-bush, and feasting with song and jest on bairn's head and spiced ale. Just as the nation will break into revolt at such an order, will beat the constables, and cause the prescribed service to be read in all the churches, so will your young gallant flout the used rebukes and warnings of the unwelcome guest. He is in this respect a sad dog certainly. It is best, then, "to let sleeping dogs lie."

CONDENMED TO LIVE.

For seven months and a quarter have I been engaged in a profoundly secret and important business with Mr. Levi Le Phog. Yesterday week we dissolved partnership, and I am a free man. Fame and fortune abandoned and peace of mind secured.

Perhaps it was foolish to abandon the precious fruit of Le Phog's brain just as it was ripening, and when another paltry £20 or so would have brought it safely to market, to be disposed of at fabulous sums to the eager multitude. Perhaps, even, as he asserts, I have behaved ungratefully towards him. We didn't quarrel at parting—that is, I did not quarrel. He, I believe, was slightly angry, and used language more remarkable for strength than refinement; but I forgive him. He is entitled to my consideration, as an astonished and disappointed, but decidedly not, as he would insinuate, a "humbugged" man. "I never heard of such a singular affair in the whole course of my experience," said Mr. Le Phog. "Here I was with you last night till as late as eleven o'clock, perfecting my noble invention. I so far succeeded that you are overcome with delight, and shake hands with me like a brother at the door, begging me to come to breakfast. Now that I have, purely to gratify you, come to breakfast, here's everything topsy-turvy, and you will give me no other explanation than that you have resolved to have no more to do with the elixir or its preparation; that, from motives you do not feel disposed to make known, you dare not. What sort of treatment do you call that?"

"As a business man, Mr. Le Phog," replied I, mildly, "you must know that your insinuations of humbug are simply absurd. From the very day of my answering your advertisement for a partner with a little capital you have received your three pounds us regularly as Saturday morning came. That, although but a poor remuneration for a man of your talent, has cost me something like a hundred pounds. Then the apparatus. Although I believe no one would have erected it, in the first instance, more cheaply than did your cousin, it has been altered so many times that I am sure I undertake its cost when I put it down at sixty guineas, at which sum, and as it stands, you must admit it is by no means so cheap. Then there was the fire at my last lodgings, caused by the defective furnace; that, as you know, had to be made good. Understand, my dear Sir, I am not enumerating my expenditure because I regret it, but simply to show you that it amounts to a sum so considerable that a man would not abandon it without profit because of mere whim."

"Does the elixir already distilled count as nothing?" asked my late partner, reproachfully.

"With the exception of about a gill and a half, it certainly does, as far as I am concerned," replied I. "True, we obtained altogether something over a quart, but, except the quantity used by myself, it was all consumed in experimenting on the charwoman and the other old party you brought from the workhouse."

"And, pray, were not the experiments satisfactory?" demanded Le Phog. "Did not the poor old soul, who came hobbling up the stairs groaning with rheumatism, and complaining of stiffness in her knees induced by five-and-forty years kneeling at the scrubbing-brush, did not she, after the very first draught of the elixir, declare herself 'quite another woman'?" Were we not at the third draught obliged to restrain her because her juvenility was so completely restored that she became quite a romp, singing and dancing, and threatening the peace of the house with her girlish tricks? Did not that feeble old workhouse man drink and drink of the life-renewing fluid till he became once again a lusty young fellow? He stripped off his pauper coat and offered to fight us both for love or for half-a-crown, whichever we preferred! Can you doubt the efficacy of my invention after witnessing such proofs?"

"Certainly not, my dear Le Phog; still"—

"I shan't think *not*," interrupted he, emphatically; "scepticism on the subject might be excused if such discoveries were without precedent. I ask you, are they? Did not my sister Rachel invent a paste to preserve beauty eternally; why should not I—her eldest brother— invent an elixir that shall preserve youth eternally, and render her appliances unnecessary? Yet why should I persist in encouraging the efforts of my genius? Why should I ruin my sister Rachel's business and bring on myself the scorn of my family? Where is my reward?"

Here Mr. Le Phog covered his face with his yellow silk handkerchief, and turned to the window. I had never seen him exhibit such emotion since he came to me with the news that his old nurse—who had nursed him at her bosom and brought him unassisted through a frightful attack of scarlatina—was lying dead in a country workhouse, and borrowed twelve pounds ten shillings of me to bury her.

"My dear Sir," said I, laying my hand tenderly on his arm, "pray don't think me ungrateful or insensible to the devotion you have displayed towards science and myself. Were I a man without conscience—an individual of sufficient hardihood to disregard supernatural and mysterious warnings, I should persevere in making our Elixir of Life public, and, according to agreement, furnish funds for advertisements, and bottles and labels. But, as I before told you, I dare not. Why, I will certainly explain, but not at this moment. Your secret is perfectly safe with me. I assure you that your fears that I shall dispose of it to Russia or to the Emperor of the French are groundless. Do with your discovery as you please. The still is freely yours, together with the molasses and the other things. Call a cab, and take them with you. Good-by; may you be prosperous."

My words—especially the last few of them—seemed to afford him some comfort; for, with his head still averted, he seized my hand and squeezed it thankfully. I, too, was somewhat overcome, and,

hurrying from the apartment, sought the chamber above. With his usual buoyancy, Mr. Le Phog speedily recovered from his grief; for, ten minutes afterwards, he had procured a light spring cart, and was assisting the man to lift into it the still, together with all that pertained thereto—even to some abandoned copper tubing and several taps, long ago stowed in the cellar and by me forgotten.

And now that the reader has been advised of the nature of the business that brought Mr. Le Phog and myself together, with the little conversation that transpired at our parting, I will proceed to unmystify him as to the reasons for my sudden resolution to wash my hands of the elixir business. If Mr. Le Phog (I am not on terms of friendship with that person at present, he having set his lawyer at me) chances to read this, he too will be enlightened.

When Mr. Le Phog stated that he was with me till eleven o'clock on the evening preceding the rupture, he stated what was perfectly correct: when I stated that a gill and a half of the elixir was all that had fallen to my share, that was equally correct. Little circumstances that have transpired during the past week may have somewhat shaken my faith in the potent liquid; but, up to the evening in question, it was perfect. I had witnessed its effects on the charwoman and the workhouse man; and although the former made her appearance on the following Friday with her knees as stiff as ever, she voluntarily confessed that, while under the influence of the magic draught, she felt neither ache nor pain, and, to use her own emphatic though vulgar words, "troated home like a lamplighter;" so that, as Le Phog observed, it was evident her relapse was the result of the evaporation of the elixir, and that if she had continued to feed her vital flame with it she would have been all right.

The gill and a half was the result of our last brew, and Le Phog, having sipped it and pronounced it nearly if not quite perfection, took his departure. All the evening I had made up my mind to a certain course, which I would put into operation as soon as I got rid of Le Phog. The brew was over by a little after nine; therefore his insinuation that I detained him till eleven is fallacious. The long time the girl took to go, first to the hamshop, and then again for the supper beer, was, to the best of my recollection, the chief reason. I was anxious to get at my experiment, that I wished him away long before ten.

The experiment was this—to take draught of the elixir, and then, my boyhood restored, to skip to bed and pass a delicious night, dreaming as a boy only dreams, and of things long ago passed away and forgotten. Le Phog at last departed. I proceeded to indulge my insane whim. I locked my chamber-door, and, placing the precious flask upon the table, filled a glass, quaffed its contents, and then threw myself back in my big armchair to await the result.

The elixir was not pleasant to drink; it was fiery hot, and highly spirituous in flavour; the unpleasantry, however, was only to the mouth, and by the time the heat in that region had subsided a delicious and grateful warmth pervaded the entire frame, really as though rejuvenation had commenced; the eyes felt growing unwontedly bright, and the cheeks glowed with the rosy bloom of childhood. To but faintly taste such bliss, and to see still nigh a gill of the source of it set idly before you, was more than weak human nature could endure; again was the glass replenished; again the draught; but in-tautly made ample amends by re-saturating me with sweetness. I used to make poetry in my youth; I felt as though, if I did not make a large quantity at once, I should explode. As a boy, I used to delight in simple and amusing songs, one in particular concerning Jim Crow's sister: as I reclined in the big chair I softly warbled that melody of my childhood as blithely as though I still wore pinnafores and an accordion cap. As a lad, I was held to be remarkably good at conundrums: I felt the faculty to make them returning, and looked and answered myself several to my entire satisfaction. At last I gave myself a poser: I forgot exactly what it was. I only knew that "elixir," and "time," and an Americanism for the word "heat," were mixed up in it, and that it was extremely difficult to solve. I turned it this way and I turned it another way, and so engrossed was I with it that when the timepiece began to tinkle, I was certainly not more than half conscious of the fact. How shall I tell the terrible way in which I was roused from my musing?

"That was twelve o'clock, was it not?"

It was a curious voice, shrill as a child's and hard as an old man's. It was a half-gagged sort of voice, not with a gag before it but a gag in it, as though the tongue and the lips were stiff from long lying idle. It was so close to my ear that the breath stirred my whiskers. For a moment, but no longer, I felt something like fear. "Pshaw!" said I to myself, "I've dropped off to sleep and am dreaming. I only heard half heard the clock, and asked myself if it was twelve o'clock that struck. I will rouse myself and get to bed."

I did rouse myself sufficiently to lift my head from the cushion against which it reclined and look before me. Then I was filled with fright, and for uncounted gold could not have told you what I saw. Since I have had a week's reflection on the matter, I can think of it and write of it with coolness and deliberation. As I blinked my eyes wide open and gazed out from the depth of the chair, my vision was arrested by the arms of it. They were no longer chair-arms—no longer carved mahogany terminated by tigers' claws, but long, lank, human arms terminated by human hands—skinny hands, yellow and with unclean nails. At the same moment it flashed on my terrified mind that it was no longer a soft cushion on which I sat, but a pair of bony legs; my trembling disturbed the knees pertaining to the legs, so that I could hear them creak; while, distinct from the hurried throbings of my own heart, I was aware of a second throb in the vicinity of the spot against which my back leant.

"Since you are awake, my good Sir," repeated the shrill, hard voice, "perhaps you will be good enough to inform me if that really was twelve o'clock that just struck out?"

Again was my hair stirred by the breath of the awful voice, and in terror I turned my head and looked above it. There could be no further doubt as to my horrible position. I was no longer sitting in my familiar armchair, but on the lap of an old man. His arms encircled me; his gaunt square shoulders were above my own; his face, as I looked up, looked down.

It was not a hideous face; on the contrary, although wrinkled, and shrivelled, and brown as a walnut, it was mild in its aspect; it was a very sorrowful-looking face, and betrayed an acquaintance with suffering of long standing. What little hair remained on the head was as white as snow, and the eyes were grey and very mild. Somehow, the appearance of the face reassured me completely.

"Pardon me," said I, endeavouring to rise, "I really was unaware of the rudeness of which I have"—

"Oh, don't distract yourself," replied the old gentleman, blandly; "I am so used to be sat upon that I rather like it than otherwise Will you, if you please, tell me what's o'clock?"

"It has just struck twelve," replied I, resigning myself to the mysterious influence the old man exerted over me and allowing my head to fall back against his breast.

"Thank you," replied he, gratefully; "I was not quite sure, yet I thought it must be. You see, when a person has an interest in but a single hour throughout the entire year, he may be excused a little anxiety about its arrival. I should be sorry to infringe orders. My privilege is scant enough as it is, goodness knows! but I am grateful for it, and should bitterly miss even a minute if they were to stop it for any misconduct of mine."

Who "they" were, who he—the old gentleman—was, was a worse puzzle to me than even the elixir riddle. My self-possession, however, was being rapidly restored to me, and I was thinking of what would be an appropriate remark to make with a view to bringing him out.

"Ah!" continued he, "I am in luck this year. For two years past when my hour came I have not had a human creature to address myself to. Last year the apartments were without a tenant, and I passed my little breathing time in solitary reflection, and in listening to the snoring of that young woman who does the housework here, and who sleeps in the front garret. The year before, though a trifle better, was not a bit less melancholy; the house happened to be full of lodgers then, so they made up a bed for a baby on my lap. It woke up, to be sure, when I woke up, and it was very nice to nurse it and keep it in good humour for an hour; but, as you may guess, by no means equal to the pleasure of talking with a fellow-creature, and making a few inquiries as to how things are going on out in the

world. What is the latest news from America? I am a native of America, you must know."

This seemed an opportunity to learn something about my mysterious companion, so I evaded his question as to the latest news and observed,

"An American by birth are you, Sir? Pray, have you been long in this country?"

I looked up as I spoke to find the sad face sadder than before. Though still perfectly civil, his voice was very sorrowful as he replied.

"I am at your mercy, Sir. To answer your question truly and

and I am bound to the truth—would surely lead to further questioning; to the relation of my miserable life, in fact. If you desire, I am bound to tell you the story. That is the command of the invisible spirits who hold me in bond. I have the privilege, however, of imploring you not to insist on the woeful narrative. I do implore you, let us change the subject."

The singular old man was averse to talking himself it was very foolish of him to speak of his story as he did, as it only whetted one's curiosity.

"Still, I did not like to be too hard on him."

"Sir," said I, "I am the last man in the world to outrage your feelings; still, and as I am sure you will admit, you owe me some explanation for your mysterious appearance in a room so exclusively rented by myself, and though I don't wish you to enter on private or family affairs, I must beg of you to tell me simply how you came to be a chair-shaped man or a man-shaped chair, together with the leading particulars of your bond with invisible spirits and your annual hours of toil, and I shall be perfectly satisfied."

"I thank you for your forbearance," replied the old man. "It will at least save me the recital of the infatuation, the madness, that led to my seeking for and finally obtaining the cursed elixir!"

"The what?" interrupted I. "I beg your pardon. What was it that your madness urged you on to obtain?"

"A drink for devils," replied the old man, bitterly. "An 'elixir' as it was called, that should cheat death—that should so blunt the scythe of Time that he could never cut you down."

"And did you obtain it? Did you drink of it?"

"Look at me," said he, mournfully.

"Yes, but how? when? Was it anything like?"

"Patience! In my madness I yearned for the potent draught, and spent my substance in purchasing ancient books and in visiting alchemists. At last there came one evening to my house an old Indian wearing the insignia of the Blackfeet. Without a word, he sat down on the carpet of my drawing-room, and, taking out his calumet, signalled for tobacco. I supplied him. Without a word, he smoked on, and I too well knew the nature of his tribe to interrupt him. He smoked on till the tobacco was exhausted, and his painted face and hoary head were but dimly visible through the circling vapour. Then he knocked the ashes from his pipe, put it away, and said:—"What would the paleface of Naningasega, the great Powwow of the Blackfeet?"

"When he mentioned his name, I knew him at once as the most renowned 'big medicine' among all Indian tribes. I guessed his errand. I answered him:—

"The Sparkling Light (the English translation of his name): not that his white brother should tell him for what his soul it is, and for which he will pay down the price of many beaver-skins."

"But the Shining Light drew him up proudly, and thrusting his hand into the bosom of his frock of moose-skin, trimmed with pine-quills and silver tags, withdrew a tiny packet of powder of a vivid red colour. 'There are things still left to the redskin,' he, "take the white man's money and buy." This is one of them. It is where you desire, take it in a little rain-water. Make no ever, I give it to the paleface as his 'medicine,' not as his friend; no saying, he laid the little packet on the table, and stalked out of the house without saying another word.

"My greed for the miraculous draught was such that the Indian's ominous words, 'I give it as the enemy of the paleface,' was lost on me. Of person I had no fear; for, though a savage, Naningasega was known as a respectable man, and one incapable of a mean action.

"We had rain-water on the premises, and within an hour of the Indian's gift I had mixed and swallowed the potent potion. It was not unpleasant. I was fifty-six years old within a few days when I drank the elixir of life. Forty years after I was ninety-six, but I did not look or feel an hour older than when I imbibed the miraculous remedy. The Shining Light kept my secret well, and to the day of his death never breathed a word about the elixir, although he frequently met men who knew me and who remarked how wonderfully well I bore my age. Once only he let out a little, and that was when a man remarked,

"He must have made a friend of Death, I believe!"

"No; not a friend—an enemy," replied the Indian. When the observation was retailed to me it puzzled me; it has ceased to be a puzzle now this century and more.

"In my ninety-seventh year I was surprised to hear that I was dead. Hale and hearty as ever, I went to bed, and in the morning my servitors were amazed to hear folks in my chamber fussing about, and talking of my ripe years and my peaceful end. I felt full of life, but I could not command my limbs, nor my voice, nor my sight. So I lay till they carried me out and buried me."

"I felt no inconvenience from being confined—none from being put into the ground. I felt no hunger, no thirst, and was unconscious of breathing. I had but one desire, and that was to know what it all meant, and what would be the end of it. How long this awful suspense lasted, I will not venture to say. At last, however, it was broken; for suddenly, and all in the dark, I was aware of tiny voices whispering,

"'Tis very strange; he had no business here."

"He had less business among men after his body was worn out," said another whisperer. "How came so much life in a worn-out body is the mystery."

"It had altogether escaped my memory till this moment; now comes to me swift as lightning—the elixir! Now, indeed, I began to feel with terrible force the words of Naningasega, 'I give it you as your enemy!' This, then, was how I was to pass my unnaturally acquired life until—until—until when? I could not bear the terrible reflection, and eagerly listened for anything else the whisperers might say. After a little time one of them spoke again.

"Well, have you inquired? Who is he? What is to become of him?"

"It is a marvel from beginning to end," replied the other whisperer. "Death says he dare not own him; Life—that is Human Life—knows him no longer. He is left on our hands. What shall we do with him?"

"Must he be kept alive?"

"So the spirits say."

"May he take any other than the human form?"

"So long as we are able to show that human life remains in him it matters not what his shape is. It might be that of a tree, even."

"Nothing can be easier," replied the other whisperer. "Let him become a tree, and once a year for a single hour—say at the season when the leaves fall—let him take human shape, that the spirits may see that we faithfully fulfil our trust."

"Then the whisperers were silent, and I heard no more of them.

"Since you do not insist on it, I will spare myself the pain of reciting the anguish, the cruel shooting pains, I endured in my transition from animal to vegetable life. Otherwise I feel no concern. I was free from hunger, and after a while only became thirsty in times of drought, and was delirious when rain saturated the earth. I was conscious that I was gradually losing my human shape and taking that of a tree-root: my fingers and toes and my hair became longer and longer and struck deeper into the earth; and after a while I felt a peculiar sensation in the region of my heart, a pricking and smarting as of a terrible corn, and which my conscience truly whispered were the pangs of sprouting. But I was comforted by the delightful discovery that I—that is, my new vegetable self—was day by day pushing my way, and that in a little time I should once more be above the ground."

"When that momentous event happened, however, I must confess that I was dismally disappointed. I had fondly hoped to be able to see and hear, but I could do neither. I was in no way superior to any other green sprout, and my consciousness of life exceeded only

to feeling when the wind blew, when the rain fell, when a caterpillar crawled over and nibbled me. True, I always retained my reasoning faculties, but they were much impaired—weak and unstable, and partaking largely of my new nature.

"One thought, however, was ever steadfast—When would the year expire, that I might enjoy my hour of human shape and power? It seemed an age to wait, and I began to think that I had misunderstood the whisperer altogether. Of course I might have known that when my green head first peeped above the earth it was spring, and that another half year must pass before the leaves fell and brought me my poor respite.

"At last the leaves did fall. Mine did not, as, being low, they were beneath the notice of the wind; but they curled and shrunk with the cold, that pinched and nipped my tender stalks in the cruellest way. But I kept my heart up, knowing that my holiday was at hand, that it might come this minute or next, and wondering *how* it would come, and where I should go, and what people would say to me.

"It came. As, to-night, it came at midnight. In the twinkling of an eye, and when I was not awake, the spirits made a man of me; and there I was, alone, amidst the white gravestones, shivering as a newly-born baby might in the black night and the icy sleet that drove against the trees; and although I had lived in the terrible place a year and more, I was filled with fear of it, and, if I could, would have run away.

"But I could not move. I was there, it seemed, 'for the spirits to see,' but not for men to see—that is, power was denied me of betaking myself where men were to be met. If a man had passed that way, I could have seen him and spoken to him, for my sight, and hearing, and voice were restored to me; but nobody came that way; to such a place and at such a time it was scarcely likely they would; so all that I saw in that first hour of my resurrection were the monuments of men dead and at peace; and all that I heard was my own lamenting voice, blending with the shrill wind. It was without regret that I presently found myself reduced to my vegetable form, and before the morning there mercifully fell so bitter a frost that my very heart seemed numbed, and for a long time I was scarcely conscious of being alive.

"Once more will I avail myself of your kind forbearance, and say nothing of the long series of years that elapsed from the time when I was a tiny green sprout no bigger than a day-till I became a tall, handsome tree—so tall and so handsome that, as the graveyard in which I grew got more thickly tenanted, the space I occupied could no longer be spared, and it was resolved that I should be cut down. I had, sapling and tree, now been a vegetable forty-nine years, and forty-nine times had human shape been vouchsafed me. Forty-nine times had I!"

"One!"

It was the tinkle of the timepiece on the mantel, but never before had I heard it chime so loudly.

"Go on, if you please," said I to my mysterious guest, "forty-nine times had you!"

But he remained dumb. I looked up; he had vanished. The chiming of the clock had, swift as the falling of an axe, severed him from humanity, and the armchair resumed its familiar shape. It was evident at a glance that to address any further question to the dense mahogany article would be absurd. The reader would naturally like to learn what adventures befel the vegetable man through his forty-nine annual holidays, as well as how it happened that cutting him down did not kill him, and how he was enabled to preserve his vitality through the process of manufacture into an armchair. I assure you, dear reader, I share your curiosity to the fullest. Indeed, the very first thing next morning I rang for my ladybird, and at a high price secured the armchair. I have put down the date, and will take care, at the year's end—unless, indeed, it so happens that by that time I am deader than my old friend's mahogany—I will take care to be in the way and on the alert to demand a continuance of the story to the end. If I am successful, the world will probably hear of it.

Thrusting leave of my friend the reader, I address myself to you, Mr. Levi Le Phog. I trust, Sir, that the explanation I have given is sufficient to account for my declining to have anything further to do with your elixir. I may further inform you that, fearing that some such fate as that of the man-tree might be mine, I have submitted the dregs of the elixir remaining in the flask to a chemical acquaintance. He smelled at it.

"Well," said he, taking another sniff, "it's rum."

I did not press him further. We are on very familiar terms, and he may have used the words "it's rum" carelessly, meaning "it is curious."

"One more question," said I to my friend; "is it harmless?"

"Taken in moderation, yes!" was the reply.

So far I am satisfied, and my mind is easy; but I assure you, Mr. Le Phog, if you persist in your action I will put my chemical friend in the witness-box.

JAMES GREENWOOD.

A BRACING MORNING.

NOT all the beauty of an Italian landscape, nor the indolent enjoyment of a balmy temperature, can supply that physical zest which peculiarly belongs to the bright but cold and frosty morning of an English winter. It is not difficult to believe that this bounding enthusiasm which rouses the whole frame to action is the great charm of our northern climate—is the secret which keeps the northern races healthy, in spite of the trying variations in temperature; and wherever its influence is resisted the penalty will be a serious diminution both of physical and mental power.

Once across the great gulf which lies between bed and bath, the remainder is easy. The grey light is not half so chill in reality as it seems when viewed through the medium of a frozen window-pane. The water in the jug is covered with a thin scale of ice, the sponge is crystallized, the corner of the towel stiff with starlike incrustations. Do not pause, or you are lost. In with you, and you will come from the icy douche in a glow that shall make the remaining part of the toilet a luxury. While your feeble companions, emerging from the blankets by easy stages, come shivering to breakfast and crouch beside the fire you will burst into the morning-room with the first gleam of sunshine, warm to the fingers' ends, and ready for hot or cold meats, dry toast, fish, fowl, muffins, plain porridge—anything or everything.

Nothing can exceed the genuine pleasure of a troop of happy boys and girls out for an excursion on such a morning as that represented in our Engraving. The sunlight glittering upon the jewels which hang in tufts of rime from the branches of the trees—the hoar frost sparkling with the glow of silver and pale gold—the hard road ringing musically beneath the horses' hoofs—the dogs wild with delight, barking, capering, rolling themselves convulsively in the crisp grass. The sharp clatter of hoofs, the jubilant shouts and laughter of young and happy voices shake the leafless twigs upon the tall old trees in the broad avenue, while the sunlight widens and glows deeper, glorifying mean objects beneath its kindly rays and melting the icicles here and there into pearly drops. The riders rattle in at a smart pace enough, and find the pedestrians waiting for them at the hall door, waiting for lunch, which, being plain and substantial, carries them well on till evening, with the help of a little reading and talking, perhaps with another brisk walk to the wood to see whether there is any mistletoe upon the old oak. Then comes dinner and fresh company, and a round of games beside the Christmas fire (for it is to be assumed that it is in the Christmas month), and so the old year goes out in the plenitude of enjoyment, the new year dawns with fresh duties, and mind and body are both braced for the everyday work of the world.

ANCIENT COIN.—A bronze coin, with the effigy of one of the two Tetricus, says *Galignani*, has just been dug up in a garden, Rue Bourg-l'Abbé, at Rouen. Tetricus was one of those numerous usurpers who set themselves up in different parts of the Roman empire on the death of the Emperor Gallien. He reigned with his son at Bordeaux, from A.D. 267 to 273. Roman relics have frequently been discovered near the same spot, and, among others, a sarcophagus, dug up in 1833, which contained some handsome vases and two coins of Tetricus.

A VISION OF NEW YEAR'S EVE.

"TWAS New-Year's Eve, that merry time,
When all the bells awake to sing,
In music merrier than my rhyme,
The burial-chant of the Old-Year King.
Bear him along in his silver shell,
With moonbeams pale enshroud him well,
While heralds his triumph beadroll tell!
With many a knell and musical swell,
Lustily, gustily sang each bell,
Till the hoary pile
Began to smile,
In a happy dream of yesterday,
When they sang a wedding roundelay.

With might and main, till midnight waned,
Eight figures stood on the belfry floor,
And all in the weirdsome darkness strained,
Till the old tower rocked with the thundorous roar;
For the Old-Year Monarch lay cold and dead,
Raindrops and red leaves on his bier were shed,
And the moon, with her starry squadrons led
The funeral march to his icy bed,
And the winds his mournful service said;
And a clash of delight
Started the night,
For the bells pealed forth their loudest chime,
And Oh, but a ringer old is Time!

Rising and falling, up and down,
These iron tongues, I heard them still;
They spoke to my heart of memories flown
With the vivid verdure of vale and hill;
Of the soul's romance for ever o'er—
Of the gentle eyes that smiled of yore—
Of a noble form on a distant shore—
Of youth's spring dew that could fill no more
The broken fount in the spirit's core;
While the robin stirred,
And its song I heard,
On a bough 'mid the churchyard's grove of stones,
Where the snow slid down to the very bones.

Just then, I trow 'twas not a dream,
The bells rang out a soft sweet chime,
That called to mind the heavenly theme,
And festive joys of Christmas time:
"This is the season when love should reign,
And peace encircle the land and main,
When all the passions the heart that stain
Should perish with Evil's hideous train,
And Charity heal each boom's pain;
For lowly and mild,
In the form of a child,
With the power of a God, He came from above,
Who taught us goodness, forgiveness, and love.

"Oh, think of the poor, too sad to sing,
While joyful tidings are borne afar,
Of the glorious birth of Creation's King,
On the holy beams of the shepherd's star.
Good words and deeds never leave a smart,
Distilled like dew on the drooping heart;
And sympathy bids life's pilgrims start
With a sevenfold-brightened future chart,
While envy and discord, and hate depart.
Is love but a flame,
And friendship a name?
The stars sing 'forget,' the winds pipe 'forgive'
For those who bless others most truly live!"

Fond memory then reviewed the past:
In one year's lapse what friends had fled?
Like birds struck down by the wintry blast
Their songs were hushed and their beauty shed.
Some of the hands which I grasped of old,
And the lips I kissed, in the grave were cold;
The Angel of Death in his hand doth hold
Rosebuds and sere leaves to enrich his mould,
And takes no bribe of silver and gold;
The ebb of Time's waves
Bears monarchs and slaves;
We are all gliding seaward whatever befall,—
Oh! let us be gentle and kind to all!

Then round me I gathered my cherubs dear
By the cheery fire, and breathed a prayer
That Heaven would bless each hearth-ring drear,
And the little ones feel a father's care;—
For an English Home is the downy nest,
Where the weary wing of the soul should rest,
And thankfulness dwell within each breast,
For sorrows o'ercome, and joys possess;
While the merry bells pealed east and west,
Like hearts that unite
In love and delight,
And laugh and sing through the midnight hour,
Till the twelfth chime strikes from the old church tower.

SHELDON CHADWICK.

SILVIO PELLICO.—The poor Pellico on his deliverance from prison entered into the *travaux forcés* of the old, bigoted Marchese Baralo. His great merits, his glowing imagination were gone; the most elegant of poets, the most free-thinking of philosophers, became a melancholy monk, and earned shrift by the utter prostration of his intellect.—*Lady Morgan's Memoirs*.

ANCESTORS OF NOBLEMEN.—It has long been the just boast of our country that the highest honours are open to the humblest of her sons. In the roll of the British Peerage will be found seventy names ennobled by the successful practice of the law. Trade and commerce have been prolific sources of nobility. The Duke of Leeds trace back to a clothworker, the Earls of Radnor to a Turkey merchant, the Earl of Craven to a merchant tailor, and the Earl of Coventry to a London mercer. The families of Dartmouth, Dacie, Pomfret, Tankerville, Dorrer, Romney, Dudley, Fitzwilliam, Cowper, Leigh, Darley, Hill, and Normandy, were all founded by merchants or citizens of London. In our own times commerce has added Lords Ashburton, Carrington, and Overstone to the Upper House, and the Peerage is not less noble, but more honoured and more useful, because it is occasionally recruited from the ranks of honourable industry.—*Burke's Viceroyalties of Families*.

MY FIRST AND MY LAST CHRISTMAS.

I'M not going to "babble of green fields" as I sit here in my easy-chair watching the live coals in the fire. I've been to a fair share of Christmas merrymakings in my time, and now I must leave the young folks to their games and the old folks to their dinner, and keep Christmas Day by myself, though I certainly did intend to go down once more and see my friends—not the friends of my youth, there are very few of them left; nay, I don't think there's one of them left, or, if there is, he must be an old fellow like myself, and perhaps couldn't come to see me if he would. It went to my heart to refuse my little granddaughter when she asked her mother to keep Christmas up here in my sick room. God bless her! I love that child. Little Annie, little Annie, you are like the good fairy tripping about an old man's room, so quiet and so loving. What could have put the fairies in my head, I wonder? It being Christmas time, I suppose, and the queer shapes of the burning embers looking to my old eyes like enchanted caverns. How everything is altered since I was a little boy, sitting on a low stool at my mother's knee and making pictures in the fire. I remember very well how I used to look forward to the Christmas holidays, when I was taken to the theatre. When was it that I went there last? Oh, to see that young man, Mr. Kean—not Edmund Kean—isn't his name Charles? Dear me, he really doesn't seem to catch the spirit of the play. Perhaps I couldn't hear him well; and then all the dresses were so different. I recollect King Richard wore large boots and a sort of tunic with puffy slashed sleeves, and his hair hung down in long curls; it was incorrect, I dare say, but that didn't signify, the acting was correct enough. Why, I hear they have been to fetch a Frenchman now to perform Shakespeare's plays. What would y' father's friend Jonah—I beg his pardon, Sir Jonah Barrington—have said to that, I wonder? What would William Pitt or Charles Fox have said to it? Why, let me see, Charles Fox was at my christening. I don't remember it, but my mother admired him highly. She canvassed for him at his Westminster election. He doesn't appear in the picture, but the picture represents my first Christmas. I've had a visitor to see me, so I shouldn't think mys'elf such a very old fellow after all; but 'pon my word I couldn't rise to receive her—an artist too. I was a pretty judge of pictures when I made my own little collection; but it was the old family picture she came to sketch, and we had a chat and a laugh over the old fashions. They are all portraits in that picture, and I don't see much to laugh at; the same sort of fashions were considered very becoming in my day. It's one of the principal amusements of the women to alter their clothes, certainly; and, now the old b'ops have been revived, even my dear daughter, who went to church with Charles in a skirt that clung to her like a bedgown, comes up here to see me every morning, and stands up like one of the funny Dutch pincushions with a leaden foot that used to be in the housekeeper's room at home. I thought my own wife charming, I recollect, in a little close frilled cap and a poke bonnet, and no waist, when we went to hear the great Kemble; and I daresay my mother was dressed quite differently when she was in Ireland and had to be carried out of the theatre where Mr. Garrick was performing. I remember my father saying that the weather was so terribly hot, and the theatre so crowded, that it brought on a sort of pestilence, an epidemic, which went by the name of the Garrick fever.

There are very few of the old actors, or the old authors, or poets, or painters left now, I'm afraid. I knew some of them, too, I remember. Let me see, where was it? Ah! that was later. I met Mr. Moore and some others at the house of a publisher, an old friend of mine. There was wonderful talk, I remember, "flashes of wit that set the table in a roar," as the poet says. I wonder what the young men talk about now at their supper-parties? Some of my young people were reading a page or two of the last fashionable novel the other day. It was quite a different thing to the books of my young days. Very likely it was better, but it certainly didn't describe good society as though the writer belonged to it, and it was full of plotting and murder, and nobody knows what—"sensation" writing, they tell me, and a very unpleasant sensation too, I should say—might as well get sensations by eating raw meat or sitting without a fire. I'm not going to grumble, neither will I talk about the good old times; there was a good deal of the worst sort of sensation in them too—a good deal of hanging, and riot, and starvation, and suffering; and there was an old King who had forgotten how to rule the nation, and a young King who had never learnt to rule himself, and great scandals about his Queen, and a tumult. I wonder how Lord Brougham is this Christmas?

I say I don't and I won't talk about the good old times; for I believe these are better, and purer, and more merciful times, just as I believe in God's goodness. But still, the old times were my times, and they were good to me, my dears. God bless me! I thought I was speaking to my grandchildren. I can hear them laughing when the door opens; if my ears don't deceive me, I can even yet detect a light little pair of feet labouring up stairs—it's my darling Annie bringing me a glass of the old wine that I laid down thirty years ago; there can't be many bottles of it left. But I hope they won't spare it; it's rare good wine, I know, and "makes glad the heart of man," as it should do. Here comes my little fairy; come in, darling. I live again in you, and we are very close together in love. You in your first childhood, and I, as some ill-natured folks would say, near my second. Never mind, let them say it, little Annie. We are close together, and both of us children are close to God, I trust.

BREAKING-UP OF THE CHRISTMAS PARTY.

"The festivities were prolonged till a late hour, and dancing was kept up with much spirit until the morning," is a stereotyped phrase which winds up the descriptions of many a charity ball and other fashionable public assemblages, and before many evenings shall have passed by the same remark will have to be applied to social gatherings of a more private sort. There is a wonderfully unconscious truthfulness about the well-known phrase, an unintentional humour which expresses by accident the peculiarities of British amusement without the exactness of the most elaborate description.

How often does it happen, indeed, that the festivities are prolonged "in lingering sweetness long drawn out" until they lose much of their hilarious character, and subside into a melancholy attempt to appear cheerful under difficulties! Dancing is kept up with spirit which will not flinch from a recognised duty, however fatiguing. It seems to be a recognised necessity that dancing should be kept up until the morning, and that people should dance on in spite of aching feet and throbbing heads, not only until the first salmon-coloured streak of day, darting through the curtained windows, pales the red flare of the gaslights, sets the burnt-out embers ticking in the grate, and throws a yellow hue upon sallow faces weary with prolonged festivity, but up to that time when the broad light of morning throws a melancholy glare upon the scene, and aching limbs, reddened eyes, and trembling hands find refuge in the friendly vehicle which courts the remarks of early marketfolk, breakfasting at street corners, of chimney-sweeps plying their calling, of night watchmen going home to bed, what time "bright chanticleer proclaims the dawn."

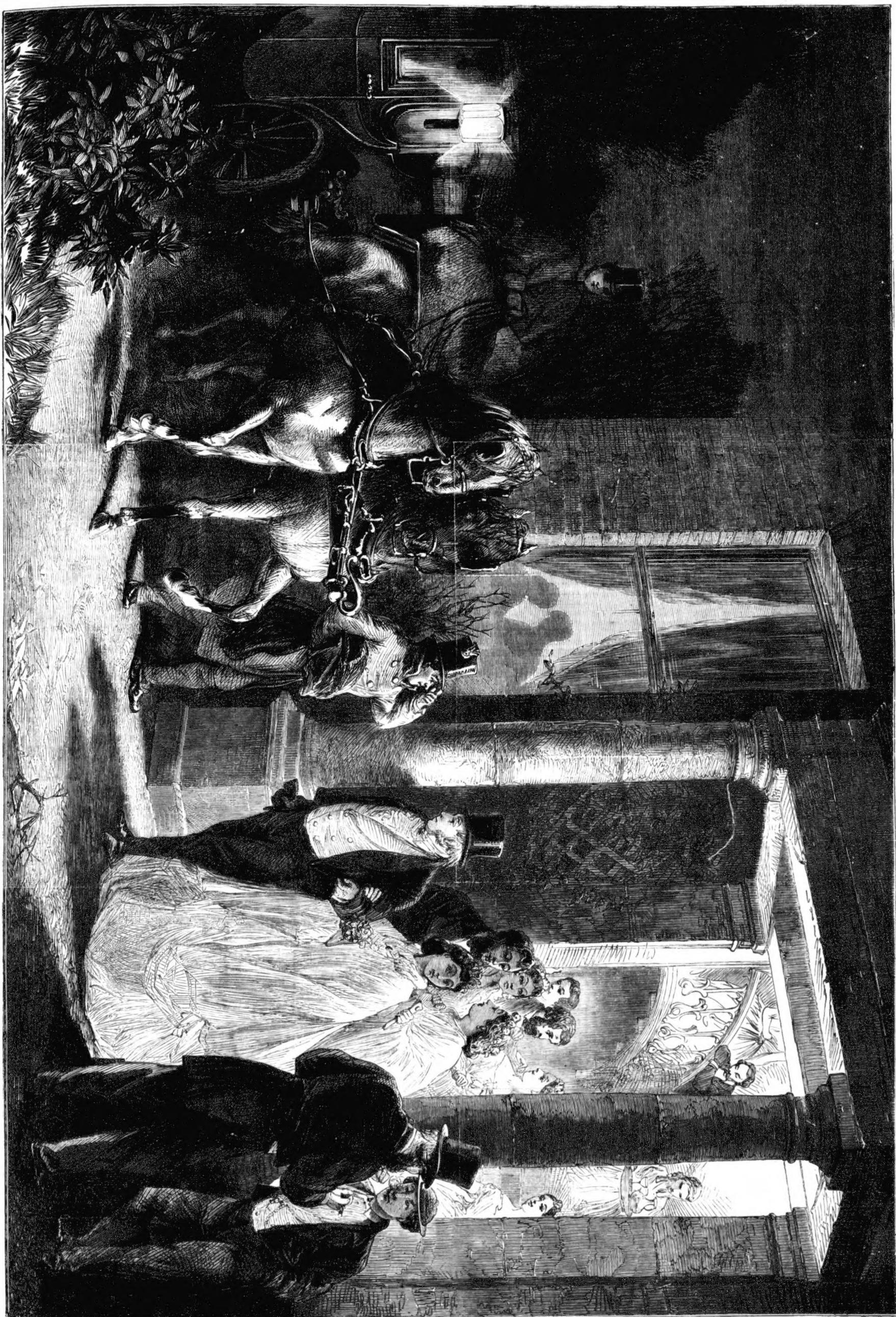
There are guests, however, dear to the heart of host and hostess, who have the courage to refuse to "prolong," and who calmly decline to "keep up" with spirit. The first sign of breaking-up comes from them while the ladies are still fresh and sparkling, the gentlemen not altogether limp and languid. The carriage is summoned, farewells exchanged, and while some gentlemen of the party are lighting their cigars preparatory to proceeding home on foot, others, not being related to the girls, hand them to the brougham with deferential respect. It is a pleasant, genial minute, that in the hall while the ladies are putting on shawls and opera-cloaks. Notwithstanding some "Good-byes!" and even some farewell kisses, there is wonderful heartiness in the leavetaking, bespeaking future meetings and pleasant memories. There are many whispered words, too, and hurried explanations, and hastily-accorded admissions sufficient to ease temporary heartaches; and, after all is said, the doors of the carriage are clapped to, the steaming horses splatter over the slippery ground and rattle away, a waving hand, white-gloved, showing from the window against the dull mist.



MY FIRST AND MY LAST CHRISTMAS.—(DRAWN BY FLORENCE CLAXTON.)



FROSTY WEATHER: A GALLOP THROUGH THE LANE.—(DRAWN BY PERCIVAL SKELTON.)



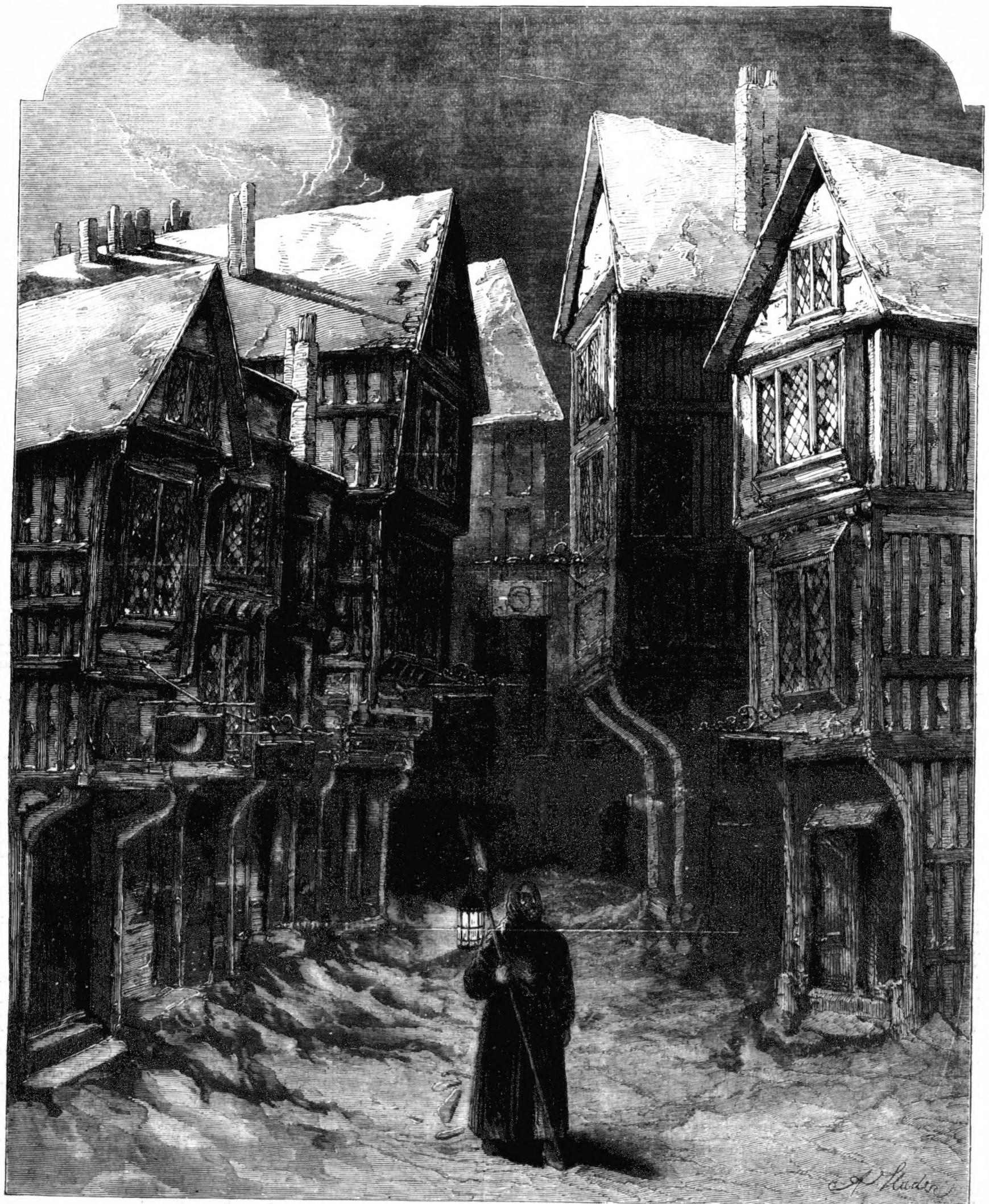
AFTER THE CHRISTMAS PARTY: THE DEPARTURE HOME.—(DRAWN BY W. C. ROBINSON.)

are gems of good writing and good teaching. The illustrations are poetical and humorous, as may be expected from an original training and school which has already sent forth such skilful and beautiful first fruits. It is almost unfair to "notice" or "criticise" such a display of poetic genius as Mr. Hood's "Loves of Tom Tucker and Little Bo-Peep." It is simply a narrative of half a dozen nursery jingles strung together in good, rolling, Ingoldsby verse, with plenty of large coloured pictures to make the enjoyment beyond all bounds. The volume is broad, the print large; the verse is broad, the pictures by no means deficient of yellow and red. Before the holidays are over, how many thousand well-thumbed copies may there not be! and

how many well-sighed wishes that Mr. Hood would do as good a turn for other nursery heroes and heroines of the spelling-book!

Miss Hadley's Old and New Testament stories in separate volumes are for very early readers. They are judiciously selected, printed in a good form, and accompanied by some woodcuts of average merit. "Children's Sayings," also by Miss Hadley, are ten little stories founded on such sentences as "I don't care," "In a minute"—always said by little children as extenuations, excuses, or defiance, and always eventually leading (as "Primer" moralists used to have it) either to the gallows or a lion at the corner of the street. Thus, with ten stories, of course there are precisely ten juvenile scape-

graces who have to be reformed from such vicious courses as saying "I can do it" or "I can't do it." Such literature doubtless does much good nursery service; but the gravity affected in "Children's Sayings" is more than most nerves can spare. A childish escapade is treated with an Old Bailey kind of solemnity which might be expected from the majesty of the law, but sounds absolutely ridiculous when associated with rocking-horses and pegtops. However, there are plenty of provoking urchins who really do want a "good talking to," and if prudent mothers should be tempted to give their restive darlings a bit of Miss Hadley's mind it may probably save them from something worse by-and-by.



THE OLD CITY WATCH GOING THE ROUND ON CHRISTMAS EVE.—(DRAWN BY ALFRED SLADER.)

THE OLD CITY WATCH.

In the present day, when the occurrence of half a dozen garrotte robberies throws the whole town into a ferment, and daily newspapers convey in italics the comfortable information that "the ruffian is abroad," we can scarcely imagine the state of society when it was enjoined by a statute of Edward I., "that none be so hardy as to be found going or wandering about the streets of the City after curfew tolled at St. Martin's-le-Grand with sword, or buckler, or other arms for doing mischief or whereof evil suspicion might arise, nor in any other manner, unless he be a great man or other lawful person of good repute, or their certain messengers, having

their warrants to go from one to another, with lanthorn in hand." Of course, this freedom of the streets only to noblemen and their attendants could not long continue; but even the marching watch of Henry VIII., or rather of Wolsey, were insufficient to guard the streets of London, though their attendants, bearing flaming cressets, helped to light the principal thoroughfares. In 1569 this armed force was disbanded, and the watchman patrolled the streets, bearing halberd and lantern, at the same time calling upon the inhabitants to hang out their lights from the quaint gable windows:—

Lantern and a whole candle-light
Hang out your lights Hear!

bawled the guardian of the public peace, and from six till nine the streets were lighted by means of horn lanterns; after that hour it was supposed that no one would be abroad whose safety was worth caring for. The laws of Elizabeth provided not only for the protection, but for the silence of the streets, since no man was allowed to blow any horn or whistle after nine o'clock, under pain of imprisonment; while anybody making any sudden outcry in the still of the night was liable to punishment. There was an exception in the case of the watchman, however, who, as he trudged through the snow, might ring a bell in every street as he called the hour.